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THURSDAY, APRIL 21ST, 2011

Local residents get ready for another battle at Island Farm

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

RESIDENTS fighting the new Island Farm development plans have banded together to form a new action group.

The Island Farm Campaign for Action is a successor to the Island Farm Action Group, which fought off earlier attempts to build a sporting complex on the land.

Amanda Roderick, who is a member, said it was felt that the old group had done a fantastic job, but it was time for some new people to carry the banner.

"We are combining the best of both worlds – the experience of the previous group, who are giving us help and advice, with some new blood," she said.

"Our first task is to alert people that a scheme that many thought dead and buried is very much alive."

A new date has now been set for Bridgend planners to consider the application from HD Ltd of Merthyr Mawr Road – the Hegarty family's development company.

The application, being considered at the meeting of the development control committee on June 16, would see the development of a number of sports and leisure facilities on the site.

These include:

- *A 15,000-seat rugby league stadium.*
- *A 2,000-seat football stadium, plus two extra pitches.*
- *A 5,000-seat rugby union stadium, plus three outdoor training pitches.*
- *An indoor tennis centre, plus 10 outdoor courts.*
- *An indoor 4G training pitch and sports hall, offering badminton, squash and other sports.*
- *An indoor swimming pool.*

The scheme includes an extension to the adjoining science park.

The site would be accessed by a new junction, controlled by traffic lights off the A48, and an internal road would link the site with the science park, giving secondary access to the complex from Ewenny Road.

Mrs Roderick said that residents were very concerned about the proposed traffic arrangements. She said that what was being proposed for the Ewenny Road roundabout would make life impossible for people living around it.

She explained: "They are saying that they will put three lanes in on the road leading towards the roundabout from town.

"They will have to widen the road outside where I and other residents live.

"It also means that we will lose the area where we turn our cars, to be able to pull out in forward gear. It will make it impossible to get out of our drives – especially if traffic levels increase."

Other proposals include preventing motorists turning right at the roundabout on the approach from the Laleston end, which the campaign claims will cause huge problems for people living in the lower Ewenny Road area of Bridgend.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

DIDN' T THE JONES FAMILY DO WELL?

ABOVE: The Jones family of Nottage, who have good reason to celebrate: From left, David, Felicity, Mary, Gwyneth Poacher, Sam and Sian.
SEE THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 3.

Welsh Guards to receive Freedom of the borough

IN a colourful ceremony next month, the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards will be awarded the Freedom of Bridgend county borough – as a "gesture of support for the armed forces and the Welsh Guards' special relationship with the area."

There will be a formal presentation on May 11, outside Bridgend County Borough Council's Civic Offices, followed by a parade through the town centre.

Residents and schoolchildren are being urged to give up their lunchtime to come out and cheer on the servicemen and women as they march.

Council leader, Coun Mel Nott, said: "Bridgend county borough has a proud tradition of supporting our troops and last year the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards were overwhelmed by the public's response to their 'welcome home' march through Bridgend.

"We have deliberately scheduled this special Freedom ceremony around lunchtime, in the hope that we will once again have hundreds, if not thousands of people, lining the streets to support them.

"These men and women courageously undertake their duties in some of the world's most dangerous places and we should never forget or underestimate their bravery."

The Welsh Guards will march out from the Bowls Hall car park next to Bridgend Recreation Centre at 12.30pm and along Angel Street to the Civic Offices, where, at about 12.35pm, the Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Colin Teesdale, will be invited to inspect the parade.

After prayers, the Mayor will read the resolution of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to offer Freedom of the county borough to the Welsh Guards, and he will then address the parade, before presenting the Freedom Scroll and receiving a general salute from the assembled soldiers.

The Battalion will turn and march across the bridge at Water Street and along Queen Street, Caroline Street, Adare Street and Wyndham Street to the war memorial at Dunraven Place, saluting the Lord Lieutenant Kate Thomas outside Barclays Bank, before finally marching back over the Water Street bridge.

The council has warned that there will be a number of road closures while the parade is taking place. Signs will be erected and South Wales Police will be on hand to advise drivers.

Cars will not be able to enter Angel Street between Sunnyside Road and the A473 dual carriageway (Langenau Strasse) or access the Rhiw multi storey car park for a short period while the parade is taking place.

The Bowls Hall car park will be closed until 2pm, although the leisure pool car parks and the main car park in front of the recreation centre will be open as normal.

Over the last eight years, the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards have completed tours to Bosnia, Kosovo, Northern Ireland, Iraq and most recently Afghanistan.

Tragically, the Battalion lost seven men in their last campaign, including Lance Corporal Dane Elson (22) and Lance-Sergeant Tobie Fasfous (29) both from the Bridgend area.

Mayor Teesdale added: "Wednesday, May 11, will be a special day in the history of Bridgend county borough. I hope that everyone will join us in showing our support for the Welsh Guards."

Royal feature

See our special eight-page royal wedding supplement, beginning on page 21.

Borough plan to bring in parking wardens?

THE ruling Labour group on Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is to consider whether or not to bring in council parking wardens.

Coun Phil White told Maesteg Town Council that the party was considering whether or not to include this in its manifesto for next year's council elections. He said it would be on the agenda for the group to consider.

There have been no traffic wardens in the borough since the end of December when South Wales Police decided to stop enforcement of parking regulations.

At that point, BCBC decided against taking on its own wardens, because of problems in other councils where losses have been incurred on such services.

However, the council said it would monitor the parking situation and police have said that they will book motorists if officers feel they are obstructing the highway.

PCSOs can also be tasked to give out tickets if it is a PACT priority in a particular area.

The town council had raised the problem of cars parking randomly in the town centre. Coun Bill May said that the police were not really interested, although they may send out the PCSOs once a month.

Coun Terry Mizen said that if there were problems, people should raise them at PACT meetings.

See how a group of brave 'soles' walked through glass and fire to help the Bridgend Cat's Adoption centre, on page 5.

Council meeting is put off

THE public meeting to discuss Porthcawl regeneration, which is being called by the town council, has been postponed.

The plan was scuppered when officers from BCBC refused to attend.

Instead, the council is organising its own information exercise about the regeneration, which includes an exhibition and a special newsletter but not a public meeting.

However, council leader David Deere said that they were still determined to have a meeting.

"We will stage it when the council has been able to obtain more information about what's going on.

"These are developments which have been shrouded in secrecy, but until we have some idea of what's happening, it's pointless calling a meeting."

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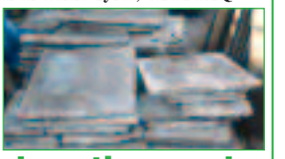
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BACK LANES IN MAESTEG:

Who is responsible? town council asks

by JAYNE ISAAC

THE thorny question of back lanes and who is liable to repair them has again been raised at Maesteg Town Council.

A resident of Bedw Street in Caerau pointed out that the lane was previously maintained by the borough council as it was the main access to a council yard, which is now occupied by a local builders' merchant.

As a result, heavy vehicles constantly use the land. It has also been flooded several times when the river has overflowed and this has caused further damage.

The resident stated that five years ago, a large hole appeared which the council filled, even though they said that the lane was unadopted. It was classed as a dangerous hazard.

Residents have made repeated attempts to get BCBC to repair the lane, but the council says that the lane is unadopted and there is nothing the council can do about it.

Residents argue that this lane is the only vehicular access to numbers 23 to 26 Bedw Street and is used by emergency vehicles and refuse lorries. It is also used by pedestrians going to the Filco supermarket. The residents have asked the town council for help.

Coun Phil White stated he and other members had been dealing with this problem. He said it was one of those unfortunate cases where the lane was never adopted.

The Environment Agency and the National Rivers Authority had also been involved because of the proximity of the river, but no-one would accept responsibility for the repairs.

Coun White said that if the town council got involved, he did not see what could be done unless the council committed itself to paying for the repairs.

Coun Terry Mizen pointed out that there should be some records going back to the days of the old Maesteg UDC about this lane – unless they had been conveniently 'lost'.

"Perhaps there is a responsibility on them to do this. Can we find out when it was used as an access to the council yard, because it would have been looked after then by the council. If so, it would still be in effect now."

Coun Bill May said that the highway authority in those days was Glamorgan County Council and they never adopted it. He added that most back lanes in the town are in a similar position.

Coun White felt that the town council would set a dangerous precedent if it paid for this lane.

It was agreed to write to BCBC about the lane.

Elvis (Pete Moore) pictured at Bryntirion FC with Matt Hunt of Filco supermarkets and Mary Canham of Tros Gynnal.

'Elvis' helped charity event go with swing

AN Elvis tribute artist, who by day is a butcher at a Bridgend supermarket, has helped to raise £500 for a Welsh children's charity, following a Las Vegas show night at Bryntirion Football Club.

Pete Moore, who has performed as the 'King' all over the UK, organised the show with his wife Sue, to help raise funds for Tros Gynnal, which supports vulnerable children and young people in Wales.

The event was hosted by the Bryntirion branch of Filco – the Welsh family-owned supermarket chain – in support of Tros Gynnal, which operates the Bridgend advocacy and conflict resolution project for young people in care in the area.

Mary Canham of Tros Gynnal said: "We are hugely grateful to Pete Moore and his fellow staff for their fantastic support of our work. His resemblance both in appearance and vocally to Elvis, is quite extraordinary – it really was a wonderful night."

Appearing alongside Pete Moore, who has been invited to sing at a major Elvis convention at Niagara Falls next year, was Eddie P as Roy Orbison.

Matt Hunt, director of the family-owned Filco chain of supermarkets said:

"This was one of the highlights of our charity events in support of Tros Gynnal; everyone was so impressed by the show that we hope to stage an even bigger event with Pete and Sue's help."

Pete Moore will be appearing at the Porthcawl Elvis Festival in September.

Gardens, stores and Civil War!

In the absence of the chairman, Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild members were welcomed by vice-chairman Shirley Masterman.

There was a letter from Mansfield Club, our twin Gulld, and some of them will be at the Federation AGM in Birmingham and hoping to meet up for the first time.

Tickets have arrived for the visit to Highgrove on June 3 and next week a few members are visiting a garden in Southerndown.

The branch heard that our Guild has put Porthcawl on the map by coming joint first with Bridgend for recruitment of new members over the year.

Mr Alan Underhill was the speaker on the history of department stores, which was interesting and brought back memories for many members and we now know that the Americans did not invent the department store!

The next meeting will be on May 11, when Mrs Ceri Joseph will talk on the Civil War in Wales at All Saints Church hall at 2pm. **FR**

PACT MEETINGS

FELINDRE,HENDRE & PENPRYSG (PENCOED) PACT, Welfare Hall, Heol Y Groes, April, 27, 6.30pm.

NEWCASTLE PACT, Civic Offices, Angel Street, May 3, 6.30pm.

OLDCASTLE PACT, The Library, Brynteg Comprehensive School, May 4, 6.30pm.

BRACKLA PACT, Brackla Junior School, Brackla Way, Brackla, May 5, 6.30pm .

CEFN GLAS, LLANGEWYDD & BRYNHYFRYD PACT, The Pavilion, Bryntirion Playing Fields, Park View, May 5, 6.30pm.

MORFA WILDMILL PACT public meeting will be held at The Community Hub, The Precinct, Wildmill, May, 12, 6.30pm.

MORFA TOWN, Penybont Primary School, Minerva Street, May 16, 6.30pm.

LITCHARD & PENDRE PACT, Litchard Mission,May16, 6pm.

COITY PACT, Gilead Chapel Hall, Coity, June 2, 7pm.

BRYNTIRION, LALESTON & MERTHYR MAWR PACT, Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston, June 9, 7pm.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact your local Neighbourhood Policing or log onto www.ourbobby.com

TOP MARKS FOR QUALITY!

Double success for pupil referral unit

BRIDGEND Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) has been awarded its first Green Flag and the Basic Skills Quality Standard.

The school received the Eco Schools Green Flag award for introducing energy saving measures, including a survey designed to save water by keeping a tally of the number of toilet flushes during an average week!

Deputy head teacher, Amy Pearce explained: "We had plastic bottles installed in the cisterns of all toilets to reduce the amount of water used with each flush by one litre. Pupils then marked a tally chart on the wall after each flush and we passed the data on to maths class, where students calculated how much water was saved in a year. So far, we have saved over 5,000 litres!"

Pupils have also made a real effort to increase the amount they recycle, save energy by switching off appliances not in use and holding regular school grounds action days to tidy, weed and paint outdoor areas.

The school has also been awarded the Basic Skills Quality Standard, for its commitment to developing the literacy and numeracy of learners. Schools must meet five standards designed to ensure that all learners leave education with the skills necessary to fulfil their potential.

Headteacher, John Connolly, said: "We have a clear focus on developing the literacy and numeracy skills of all our learners at Bridgend PRU. Our pupils are engaging and seeing massive improvements in their skills, which is a big boost to their self esteem and their progress across the curriculum."

Maesteg play celebrates home town characters

THE Llynfi Valley Amateur Dramatic Society is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year and to commemorate the occasion, the company will be staging a comedy entitled *Bottoms up*! – written by their own Alan J Flay.

Maesteg-born Alan and is now hard at work with a strong and talented cast, alongside his co-director, Judith Hall.

Judith is a founder member of the society and directed its first production *The Corn Is Green* on May 2, 1981. So, it is very fitting that this play Bottoms up! is having its last night on the opening night of the very first play presented by Llynfi Amateur Dramatic Society.

In true 'carry on' style, *Bottoms Up!* Is a comedy set on a council estate in Maesteg. It introduces the Longbottom family and portrays the many trials, tribulations and celebrations of valley life – with hilarious results.

Alan explained: "The exaggerated characters in the play are inspired by the many bright and colourful people I have met and known over the years in my home town."

Spokeswoman and treasurer for the society, Barbara Thomas, said: "We would like to thank all those people who sponsored us, as it is only with their help that we are able to continue providing entertainment for the valley."

Anyone interested in keeping the tradition of drama alive in the Llynfi Valley, and who would like to join the society, should contact 01656 735622.

Bottoms Up! will be playing at Maesteg Town Hall over three nights, May 18–20 at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Maesteg Town Hall box office or telephone 01656 735622 or 01656 733269.

ANNE ALLEN

Never a dull moment for the Lions!

"IT WAS A BUSY WEEKEND!", said the Lions president, Ralph Anslow, referring to last Saturday's foreshore clean-up by the Porthcawl Lions, which coincided with their massive book sale at the Seabank Hotel.

Among the litter on the foreshore were four golf balls and a rugby ball, in addition to the usual plastic bottles, shoes, tin cans etc etc.

Porthcawl Lions were there for two hours on Saturday morning and left the foreshore much cleaner for their efforts.

The book sale was once again a great success and all profits go to international, national and local charities and good causes.

Porthcawl Lions thank all members of the public who support their books sales. The next sale is on Saturday and Sunday (May 14-15).

Porthcawl Lions are now gearing themselves up for their popular May fayre on May 2, in the grounds of the Rest Hotel.

This year, in addition to entertainment in the arena, there will be lots of stalls and games for all ages with lots to do and see all day.

The fayre opens at 11am and all are welcome. Car parking is available in the grounds of the Rest Hotel.

Entries are still being taken for the Porthcawl Lions Charity Golf day on Friday, June 10, at the Grove Golf Club. Teams of four can enter at a cost of £130, with the opportunity to win valuable prizes.

The charities being supported this year are Porthcawl RNLI, Heronsbridge School, and Glaze the prostate cancer charity at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

Contact Tony Jones on 01656 742895 for further details, or go to the Lions' web site: ***porthcawllions.org.***

DAVID RICHARDS

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 28)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
21 Thur	10.20	9.8	22.43	9.7
22 Fri	11.08	9.4	23.23	9.3
23 Sat	11.51	8.8		
24 Sun	00.15	8.7	12.41	8.1
25 Mon	01.11	7.6	13.39	7.5
26 Tues	02.19	7.6	14.58	7.3
27 Wed	03.41	7.5	16.17	7.6
28 Thur	04.51	7.9	17.22	7.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

E-Mail Contacts: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk* • *gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk* • Tel 01446 774484
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CHILDREN TO DESIGN MURALS ON EYESORE WALKWAY

AN important pedestrian link in Porthcawl is to get a facelift.

The subway that links John Street with Station Hill has been awarded a grant from the Welsh Assembly Government, so that it can be upgraded.

The entrance will be landscaped, internal lighting repaired and murals will be painted on both internal and external walls, designed by local schoolchildren.

Porthcawl SHOUT has been involved in the campaign to get action after residents complained about litter and vermin in the undergrowth near the entrance by the bus stops.

Local traders have also said that the subway is an unattractive environment which discourages shoppers from walking to John Street to the niche-trading hub in Station Hill.

Porthcawl SHOUT has worked with the town centre manager Rhiannon Kingsley and has gained support from the town council and the chamber of trade for this project.

Des Rees, chairman of Porthcawl SHOUT, said that this was an excellent first project for the group and demonstrated their commitment to working in partnership with BCBC and the Welsh Assembly on behalf of the residents of the town.

He added; "The improvement to the subway will enhance safety for everyone, improve the surrounding environment and will create a feature for John Street to support traders in the immediate locality."

Rhiannon Kingsley said that approaches have already been made to local artists to work with the children to come up with some unique and colourful designs.

Gary Victor is the project manager for Porthcawl SHOUT and he said that work will start as soon as grant procedures are finalised. The work should be completed by early summer.

BRIDGEND ASSAULT:

Police issue image

Police in Bridgend have renewed an appeal for witnesses to an assault which took place in the early hours of Monday, December 27 and have issued this CCTV image of a man they would like to speak to.

The incident occurred shortly after 2am on Derwen Road in Bridgend and a man was later seen entering a taxi with a female on Station Hill.

Enquiries had revealed that they were taken to the Brackla area of the town.

The suspect was described as white, medium to stocky build, and possibly in his twenties. He had short cropped dark hair and at the time was wearing a grey or blue jumper, with what appeared to be epaulettes on each shoulder.

Anyone with information is asked to contact PC Stuart Morgan at Bridgend police station on 101, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Family's £5 lunch helps to raise £1,000 for charity!

Enjoying a well deserved glass of wine after the washing-up!

THE second annual altruistic lunch held by Sian and David Jones, helped by their daughters Felicity and Samantha, raised a staggering £987 for the Sandville and WaterAid.

"I am absolutely flabbergasted," said Sian. "We thought last year's total of £778 was amazing and never dreamed that in these difficult financial times we would match it, let alone surpass it."

The lunch (a selection of curries) was held at their home in Nottage; tickets were £5, which included the lunch and raffle tickets and refreshments were also for sale.

"Thanks to everyone who participated. Here's hoping we can get to £1,000 next year!" said David.

St John cadets get in the picture

GEM photographer Keith E Morgan was invited to give a slide show on photography to the St John Ambulance Badgers, as part of their training for the 'Entertain' badge.

Not only did the Badgers turn out for the slide show, but the Cadets did as well, and also the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emment-Lewis.

Following an interesting illustrated talk which took in the history of photography, Keith explained both how the camera worked and how it was related to the operation of the human eye and brain.

A great believer in audience participation, he gave the Badgers and Cadets the opportunity to have hands-on experience with a number of digital cameras that he had brought.

Following great activity between photographers and models, Keith then processed the digital images taken by the would be photographers and projected them on to the screen for all to see the results of their efforts.

Some of the images were a little out of focus, but they served to illustrate the art and techniques of photography, and great fun was had by all.

The Mayor of Porthcawl was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Jackie Rees.

Porthcawl man's marathon cycle for RNID

KIND-HEARTED fundraiser Steven Flett is going the extra mile for charity by signing up to take part in a 260 mile cycle ride from north to south Wales in June to raise vital funds for RNID, the UK charity taking action on hearing loss.

The Nottage charity champion, aged 42, is hoping his cycle ride will smash the £1,027.50 he raised from doing a similar challenge in 2010.

Money raised from the event will help RNID to make strides in finding solutions for hearing loss, promoting hearing health and supporting the charity's services for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Steven said: "RNID is a charity that is close to my heart as it is 30 years since I was issued with my first hearing aid.

"RNID help and support people who are deaf and help to improve the technology to help us.

"I feel like I would give something back. I am determined to raise as much charity cash as possible and urge people to help me by digging deep and donating to this worthwhile cause – whether you give 50p or £50, every penny will help RNID make a difference.

"You can donate quickly and easily online at www.justgiving.com/steven."

If anyone feels inspired to do a similar challenge or take part in one of RNID's other events please call 0845 634 0687 or email events@rnid.org.uk today!

Des goes Dutch to join the Porthcawl walkers

WHEN the recent Porthcawl 'Walk for Life' took place there was one forced absentee.

The walk raises funds for research into kidney disease and local man Des French had a particular interest in the cause – because his wife Judith had a kidney transplant just over twomonths ago in Cardiff.

Des works on the rig *Noble Lynda Bossler* in Holland and was unable to get home for the Porthcawl event, so he walked on a treadmill in the gym on the rig while the walk was taking place back home in Porthcawl.

Des raised more than £400, and the picture shows him presenting the cheque to Jean Schofield of Porthcawl KRUF.

Des French hands over his bumper cheque for KRUF.

Entente Cordiale is reinforced on evening of song!

TABERNACL Choir were recently delighted to welcome, for the first time, the French choir Chorale du Lac from Bridgend's twin town Villenave d'Ornon.

The tour party was hosted by members of Cor Tabernacl and the highlight of the visit was a concert co-presented by the two choirs at Tabernacl Chapel.

The large audience enjoyed an interesting selection of contemporary music from the French choir, which contrasted with the more traditional choral style from Cor Tabernacl.

The French choir were impressed by visits to Big Pit and especially Penderyn Distillery where sampling of the products was well received!

A social evening with the group Tinnitus further developed entente cordiale. An additional concert with the choir, 'Sounds Familiar', Porthcawl was also very successful.

Many friendships were forged during their stay and it is hoped that a reciprocal visit will be possible in the near future.

CHRIS WILLIAMS

Military items stolen in house burglary

ABOVE and RIGHT: Some of the items stolen.

POLICE are investigating a burglary at a house on South Street, Bridgend, between 1pm-3.30pm on Friday, April 15, in which rare items of military memorabilia.

They included an eight-in tall bronze statue of a Japanese Samurai warrior and a number of World War Two, dress knives, a German Rapier, two Iron Cross medals and Bars as well as three 18th century rapiers.

Detective Constable Tristan Evans of Porthcawl CID said: "The stolen property is very unusual and we are appealing for any information regarding this burglary. If anyone knows of the whereabouts of any of these collectors' pieces or has any information which could lead to their recovery, please contact us."

DC Evans can be contacted on 101, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Pictured are Keith Duggan (chairman) and Jocelyn Reynolds, the 90th birthday member. Also present at the party were Miriam Barker and Glenys Lewis (committee members), Dawn Edwards (stroke club member) and Kath Edwards (volunteer – catering team).

Stan pops in to wish Jocelyn happy 90th!

Jocelyn Reynolds received a surprise visit from Stan Stennett and his wife Betty.

A 90TH birthday celebration took place at the Green Acres public house, North Cornelly, in honour of Jocelyn Reynolds of Mary Street, Porthcawl.

A wonderful surprise was in store for Jocelyn, when Stan Stennett and wife Betty arrived. Stan is an avid supporter of the Porthcawl Stroke Club and is always there when we need cheering up, what a wonderful man!

Our sincere thanks goes to him and his wife for taking the time out of his busy schedule to join us – it really is appreciated.

If anyone is interested in joining the Porthcawl Stroke Club, contact Keith Duggan (chairman) on 01656 773376 or Ray Cross (committee member) on 01656 782190.

Our thoughts go out to Wendy Cross, who recently lost her dear mother Betty, who will be sadly missed.

We also wish good health to Gareth Hopkins and Betty Phillips.

BM

'Where there's a will, the words are important!'

NEWS FROM THE SKER WI

SKER WI met on Thursday, April 14, at St David's Church Hall.

The president, Nina Charlesworth, welcomed members to the meeting and informed them that as there were nearly 80 members in Sker WI, any further applicants for membership would have to go on a reserve list.

Forthcoming events were announced, which included the Glamorgan Federation Council meeting in the Grand Pavilion on Wednesday, May 4, when Beverley Humphries will be the main speaker.

A visit to the RNLI station was planned for Thursday, May 19, and a visit to Windsor Castle on June 15.

The speaker for the evening was Mr Phillip Davies, who spoke on 'Funny Wills'.

Mr Davies, a solicitor, entertained members with anecdotes of weird wills made by people in the past.

Although the account of these wills was funny, Mr Davies also pointed out the importance of making sure that all wills made should be worded correctly.

Two teams from Sker entered the GFWI Bowls tournament on Saturday, April 16 at Sully.

The winning team, consisting of Sheila McGrath, Eunice Howells, Margaret Price and Wendy Williams, was invited to represent Glamorgan in the Welsh Sports Day at Newtown in September.

Well done, ladies!

The next meeting will be on May 12, when the NFWI Resolutions will be discussed, followed by social time!

BETTY GRIFFITHS

Students visit British Army trade event

Students from Bridgend College undertaking an electrical challenge

LAST week, students from Bridgend College had the opportunity to experience some of the 144 trades available in the British Army at an engineering and technical careers event in Crickhowell.

Over the course of the two days, students had the chance to see how the information they are learning on their IT, communications and engineering courses, is being used to a full extent within the Army.

Soldiers from the Royal Signals, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Royal Engineers and the Royal Logistics Corps were also on hand to talk about their experiences and demonstrate the equipment used as part of the day job.

Heading up the Army recruitment programme in Wales, Lt Colonel Bob Slay told the students:

"This event has been specifically designed to allow further education students the chance to get a taste of Army life and the wide variety of careers on offer with the technical trades in the Army."

Romantic poet's verse wins a weekend break

MARRIOTT HOTELS have been celebrating romance, love and marriage by searching for new wedding poems from around the UK, and one by a Bridgend woman caught their eye.

Catherine Smith will have her poem published alongside a line-up of verse from across the nation.

Her poem '*Roll on the wedding*!' was hand-picked from hundreds of poems, each inspired by love and weddings, and is a tale of a busy bride-to-be's last minute bridal arrangements and eagerness to get married.Catherine will be published in *Marriott Love Poems – A Collection Inspired by Love, Weddings and Romance*, to be distributed across the 54 UK Marriott Hotels and Country Clubs.

She will also enjoy a romantic weekend at one of Marriott's luxurious hotels.

Catherine said: "I've been looking for a way to get back into writing for a while, so when I saw this poetry search, I felt compelled to write a poem.

"I'm over the moon to be named the winner for Wales, and to be published in Marriott's poetry book!"

V A NEWMAN GLASS QUIZ LEAGUE WEEKLY POSERS

HERE are your four-for-thought:

1. Which 1894 novel is set in the fictional European country of Ruritania?

2. Which French artist created the 1872 painting 'Impression Sunrise' from which the term Impressionism takes its name?

3. Which Italian Formula One driver, born in Rome in 1959, had 214 starts, without recording a single victory?

4. The Oystercatcher and Avocet are both examples of which bird characterized by long legs and thin bills?

A RUDGE
(for quiz league)

ANSWERS:
1. The Prisoner of Zenda
2. Claude Monet
3. Andrea De Cesaris
4. Waders

Sorry, Pencoed!

Last week's report headlined Coity WI was, in fact, submitted by Pencoed WI. Apologies to anyone confused by the change in writing style.

Bridgend College student claims first place in competition

STUDENT JADE WILLIAMS.

BRIDGEND College student, Jade Summers, last week won the regional heat of the WorldSkills UK Hairdressing competition to find the nation's most creative hairdressers held at Bridgend College's new hair salons.

"What a fantastic day, the students had an excellent opportunity to showcase their skills, as students from across the UK demonstrated cutting styling colouring and design. Hairdressing has now become such a high profile and creative career path for students; we are delighted to host and win a competition that promotes the skills agenda," said Jane Wattleworth, head of school services to people.

Awards are made for first, second and third place at intermediate and advanced level and Charlotte Button from Cowbridge Salon, Fich & Ramous, was awarded first place at advanced level.

Students from 12 colleges from across the UK were tested on their scissor skills, colour creativity and styling prowess by completing two tasks in six hours that relate to both women's and men's hairdressing.

Open to those who are currently working towards either a NVQ level 2 or 3 in hairdressing, the event is designed to reflect the challenges they would face while working in a busy salon.

Three students from Bridgend College took part in the competition, with Jade Summers and Megan Munroe competing at intermediate level and Jade Williams at advanced level.

Student shortlisted for prestigious Nikon award

A BRIDGEND College student studying BA (Hons) photographic practice, has been shortlisted for the Nikon student of the year foundation award.

Melissa Jenkins is one of only 10 students invited to London this week to be interviewed by the panel of judges at the John Wright studios in London, leading international fashion and advertising photographer.

The Nikon Foundation offers final year photography students the chance to win three month's paid employment as a photographer's assistant to John Wright!

Photo taken by Melissa Jenkins and featured in Sublime magazine.

The winner will also receive £3,000 to help with living expenses and a top of the range Nikon professional camera and lens kit worth £4,000.

After studying four years in photographic practice, Melissa now specialises in fashion-based photography and regularly works in London.

How WI team managed to beat the Eggheads!

MYNYDD CYNFFIG WI NEWS

AT 2.30pm on April 12, our branch held its April meeting to discuss plans for the following month's activities and to report on events since our last meeting.

Mrs Margery Goode welcomed 35 members who heard that the Link meeting held at Coychurch village hall, and organised by Laleston WI on March 23, was a great success.

Thirty-one of our branch attended and enjoyed great entertainment and refreshments.

Two members of Mynydd Cynffig WI attended the Friday Night Hop in Cornelly organised by Kenfig WI on March 29 and had an enjoyable and energetic evening.

On March 29, four of our members joined 50 other federation walkers for a three to four mile walk organised by Glamorgan Federation. A most enjoyable morning from Rest Bay to Sker with a picnic lunch in a wonderful setting.

At our meeting, the guest speaker was Mrs Sally Mabey, who gave us an entertaining insight into her experience as captain of Glamorgan Poppies, the WI team which entered the TV quiz "Eggheads".

Although Mrs Mabey stressed the luck element in their episode of the quiz, we were delighted to hear that the Glamorgan Poppies had beaten the Eggheads. Her enthusiasm for the event made for a delightful talk and the vote of thanks was given by Mrs Margaret Jones.

The branch meeting is on May 10 when WI resolutions will be debated followed by a 'bring and buy' sale.

Information about WI is available from Mrs Maureen Crewe on 01656 749070.

EIRWEN DE VRIES

BRAVE 'SOLES' TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE TO HELP THE CATS PROTECTION CENTRE!

Photos by MANDY THOMAS
(Available for purchase, telephone 07974 518347)
These and other pictures of the event can be viewed at:
www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk

SPONSORED firewalk and glass walks held to raise money for Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre have raised more than £5000 to date, and with pledges still coming in, the final figure is expected to be around £7,000

The event, held on April 16 at Bridgend Adoption Centre, was described as a "*cracking success*" with 30 fearless cat lovers hot footing it across a 12ft bed of broken wine bottles and a 20ft bed of hot embers,

Mags Hart, the receptionist at Bridgend Adoption Centre, who completed the glass walk said: "*I was terrified at the thought of walking on broken glass, especially after seeing the broken bottle neck, but I overcame my fear and gingerly picked my way across it.*

"*It was a fantastic experience, not to be forgotten*".

Leanne Buchanan, a vet nurse at Shepherd the vets, said after completing the firewalk: "*I really enjoyed the firewalk, it was great to be part of the whole experience and support Cats Protection – definitely an experience I won't forget*".

Sue Dobbs the centre manager said: "*The event had great local support and we would like to say a big thank you to Coun Jeff Tildesley for taking part, Shepherds the Vets for sponsoring the event, other local businesses for supporting it, and all participants and volunteers who made the event possible.*

"The money raised will be vital in giving local cats a second chance in life and we're very grateful to everyone who dug deep into their pockets".

Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre is part of a national network of 253 volunteer-run branches and 29 adoption centres that together help more than 193,000 cats and kittens each year.

The charity's vision is a world where every cat is treated with kindness and an understanding of its needs.

Who wants to build what and where?

*Bridgend County Borough Council – **Land adj 23 St Georges Avenue, Wildmill** – Remove large weight bearing limb on lower side, reduce height by 30–40 per cent, reshape crown.*

*Mr Stephen Watkins – **30 Honeysuckle Way, Brackla** – Crown reduction and crown thinning by 25 per cent.*

*O2 – **19 Caroline Street, Bridgend** – Proposed new signage.*

*West Park Primary School – **West Road, Porthcawl** – Erection of log cabin.*

*Mr I Richardson – **Garden 3, St Davids Close, Brackla** – New dwelling in garden.*

*Mr E Cronje – **31 Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl** – Remove existing conservatory and install a conservatory roof doors to ends utilising garden wall and new conservatory.*

*Mr and Mrs Hancock – **6 St Johns Drive, Porthcawl** – Dormer extension to rear.*

*Mr and Mrs Morris – **128 Glan y Nant, Tondu** – Attic extension for additional domestic storage.*

*Mr Parry – **5 Clos Glyndwr, Parc Derwen, Coity** – Lean-to conservatory to rear of dwelling.*

*Bridgend CBC – **Coychurch Crematorium, Heol Simonston, Coity** – Internal refurb to toilet facilities, inc upgraded toilet facilities together with improved access.*

*Mrs B Eadon – **95 Coed Parc Court, Maesteg** – Create first floor above garage for lounge, bedroom shower and WC, internal alterations to existing garage.*

*Creative Living Spaces – **Prior Garth, Ewenny Road, Ewenny** – New boundary wall to front and replace approved covered patio to rear with conservatory.*

*Mr A Laing – **44 Eustace Drive, Bryncethin** – Build garage on side garden.*

*Mr M Barry – **33 Iron Way, Tondu** – Convert half of double garage into living space.*

*Mr C Hogan – **13 Woodlands Rise, Bridgend** – Erect single storey extension to the side and rear which includes a kitchen, utility room and garage.*

*Mrs J Morrey – **5 Fairfield Road, Bridgend** – Single storey rear side and loft extension.*

*Mr and Mr S Vaughan – **16 St Johns Drive, Porthcawl** – New porch (replacement).*

*Mr M Healey – **44 Ger Y Lyn, Porthcawl** – Proposed double storey rear extension – resub of refusal* 09/668.

THE STAGECOACH CHILDREN BRING WEST END TO WALES

MORE than 200 children from Stagecoach Theatre Arts recently performed in spectacular fashion to a packed auditorium.

This special production featured musical theatre currently playing in London, and was brought to Barry Memorial Hall and Theatre 'Direct from the West End' by the talented children from Stagecoach Bridgend and The Vale.

Principal Helene Reynolds said: "Although we don't promote glitz and glamour, each one of them earned their moment in the spotlight, and it was wonderful for them to get such recognition for their effort and achievement week after week.

"They sang, danced and acted with great skill, confidence and obvious joy in the experience. We are so incredibly proud of them all."

Pictures by LAURIE GOLDEN

Pupils learn how to be good leaders

ABOVE: Wick pupils do an exercise during their training day.

CHILDREN from Wick and Marcross Church in Wales primary school council joined with school councils from other rural schools, to develop their skills as leaders of the future.

The pupils took part in a training day which helped them to identify the key skills they needed to be effective and efficient leaders.

A school spokeswoman said: "The children had the opportunity to work with the school councils from Llanfair and St Bride's Major schools to find out about how their school councils worked, to learn from each other, and to set themselves targets for the forthcoming term.

Morwenna, from Wick, said:

"I learnt a lot from the experience – it has helped me think about what we can do as a school council to make our school improve."

Man is jailed after beagles starve to death

The surviving dog could barely stand when it was rescued by the RSPCA.

An unemployed Maesteg man has been jailed for four months and banned indefinitely from owning or keeping all animals, after pleading guilty at Bridgend Magistrates Court to causing unnecessary suffering to four beagle dogs

On Monday, April 18, magistrates heard that on September 28 last year, an RSPCA officer attended the home of Andrew Bethley, aged 44, in Caerau, Maesteg.

During the visit, three dead beagle dogs were discovered, along with an emaciated dog of the same breed.

The animals were taken for veterinary inspection, where it was confirmed that the three dogs had starved to death.

The fourth dog was found to be in an emaciated state, due to malnutrition, and could barely stand.

In his defence, the court was told that the defendant was in receipt of medical treatment for alcohol addiction and had suffered the loss of both parents in the past 12 months.

RSPCA inspector Nic de Celis said: "This has been a harrowing case, and the suffering inflicted on these animals is unimaginable.

"We take no pleasure in the prison sentence imposed on the defendant, but it does reflect the gravity of his failure to care for his animals."

Archaeology project looking for volunteers

FOLLOWING the success of last year's Arfordir community project in Swansea and the Gower peninsula, the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust will be extending the scope of the Afordir project to cover the coastline from Port Talbot to Porthcawl.

GGAT is offering local people the chance to explore and learn more about the rich coastal heritage from Port Talbot to Porthcawl and the opportunity to take part in the project recording and monitoring any changes that have taken place.

A spokesperson said: "We are inviting people who are in the local area and those who are regular visitors to the coastline to get involved.

"You will be given training and support by professional archaeologists in how to recognise and record archaeological sites.

"By participating in this project you will be contributing to our knowledge of archaeological sites along the coast and the threats that they face.

"Last year's response to the project has been very positive with a number of enthusiastic volunteers signing up to study the coastal heritage Swansea Bay and the Gower peninsula, with everyone taking part really enjoying the project, which is what we aim to continue into the new study area."

If you would like to take part in recording sites along the south Wales coast, contact the local Arfordir project coordinator, Ellie Graham at ellie@ggat.org.uk, or check out the GGAT website, www.ggat.org.uk.

COUNCIL WILL AID RESIDENTS IN WOOD BURN PROTEST PLAN

MAESTEG Town Council has made further comments concerning plans to install a woodfired burner into a factory at Nantyffyllon.

The council initially raised no objections to the proposal from Gary Evans of GE Carpentry Services at the Forge Industrial Estate to install the burner and a 30-ft high chimney at the site.

Residents of Pentyla, which is the street nearest to the factory, have since visited the council to express opposition to the plans.

They point out that the chimney will end at the height of the back gardens in the street, which is built on higher ground.

It would be below their rooftops so they feared that the smoke emissions could cause health and respiratory problems.

The furnace would be operated 24-7 in what was a residential area.

Coun Terry Mizen said that residents were concerned about the environmental impact of the fumes:

"We are quite in order to support their concerns. We previously only commented on the height of the chimney.

"We should send this down to BCBC as a further observation."

Coun Gareth Howells said that while the council wanted to support a private company that provided valuable jobs in the valley, they had to ensure that the environment was properly protected.

He said that the county borough should ensure that the relevant regulations were being complied with.

MAESTEG COUNCIL
NEWS IN BRIEF

COUN Lynne Simmons has resigned as a member for the Caerau ward of Maesteg Town Council as ill health has prevented her from continuing.

The council voted to send her a letter of thanks for her services over the years.

The vacancy is being advertised and if no-one requests an election, the council is free to co-opt to fill the place. There will be elections for the whole council next May.

THE council has agreed to nominate the current deputy mayor, Coun Gareth Howells, as the new mayor starting in May and he will take over from Coun Phil John.

Coun Howells represents the Nantyffyllon ward. Coun Lynne Beedle is to become deputy mayor.

BUS companies providing services within the Llynfi Valley are to be asked to put up timetables at bus stops.

Coun Steve Smith, a non driver who relies on public transport, stated that he travels extensively on buses locally and there were no timetables on display.

A REQUEST from police for up to £415 to buy pin badges for pupils at Maesteg Comprehensive School has been turned down by the town council. The pins are being distributed as part of a campaign against cyber bullying.

Coun Bill May said the council had a policy of making only one donation per year to any organisation and the police had already received money towards maintaining their bikes.

Coun Terry Mizen felt the council had to be consistent.

MAESTEG Town Council has supported a planning application to convert the old matron's house at Hyfrydol Care home in Cemetery Road, Maesteg, into residential accommodation.

It had been used for offices.

A PLANNING application has been lodged by Valleys To Coast Housing Association to build supported housing accommodation to house seven people with communal facilities on land at Heol Gelli Lenor at Maesteg Parc estate.

The new accommodation will be used for residents now living in the Bryn Eithin home, which is being closed.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Mayor's charity concert

I RECENTLY attended a musical treat at St Mary's RC Church, Ewenny Road, Bridgend.

The Mayor, Coun Colin Teesdale, with the assistance of Bridgend County Civic Appeals standing committee, had organised the concert to provide funds for Bridgend County stroke group, Glaze prostate charity, Wales, and Heronsbridge School.

The chairman of the committee, Mr Doug John, began by thanking the hard-working Mrs Mari Major (secretary) for organising the concert.

Compère Hugh Thomas (president of the Welsh National Eisteddfod) had travelled from London that afternoon, and introduced the Maesteg Gleemen male voice choir, twice winners at the National Eisteddfod, with Alun Hodges, musical director and accompanist Suzanne Hodges.

The choir opened with Keith Christopher's 'Let all men sing', the song from *Mamma Mia* 'I have a dream' and the spiritual 'Stand by me'.

They were followed by the group Y Sêr Tirion, consisting of five girls from Bryntirion Comprehensive School, accompanied by music teacher Claire Hawkes. This was the second year in succession that Libby, Lucy, Nicola, Sarah and Siân, had performed at this prestigious event.

They started by singing songs composed by Edwin R Hawkins, and from Stephen Schwartz's *Wicked*.

Next came flautist Bethan Rees, a former pupil of Brynteg Comprehensive, studying for a bachelor of music degree at Cardiff University.

Accompanied by pianist Peter Richards, this was Bethan's first solo performance, and she gave a brilliant rendition of pieces from *Suite Antique* by John Rutter.

We then had another contrast, with the 'Tri Tenors' from Ceredigion – Crwys Gwynnant Evans, son Robyn Lyn and John Davies. All three have been finalists and winners in National Eisteddfodau and sang a medley of English and Welsh songs.

The Maesteg Gleemen completed the entertainment before the interval with the Bryan Adams song 'Everything I do', the rugby international anthem 'World in Union' and tenor soloist Gerald Seymour singing Frank Sinatra's 'My Way'.

The Maesteg Gleemen set the mood for the second half with 'Anthem' from the musical *Chess*, and their bass soloist Gwyn Evans sang the Welsh hymn 'Diolch I'r Iôr'.

Y Sêr Tirion presented songs from the George Gershwin musical *Oh Kay* and John Kander's musical *Chicago*.

Flautist Bethan Rees performed Bizet's 'Waltz from L'arssiene suite' and Ernest Bloch's *3rd movement from Suite Modale*.

The Tri Tenors then sang a selection of operatic arias and Neapolitan songs and the Maesteg Gleemen came back on stage to sing another Abba song 'Thank you for the music' which they had dedicated to the memory of pianist Bryan Davies.

Bryan had been a founder member and accompanist for 29 years with Côr Meibion De Cymru.

They then sang 'Y Tangneddwyr', composed by Eric Jones during the blitz on Swansea in the Second World War.

The concert concluded with everyone joining in the Welsh hymn written by Daniel James 'Calon Lan' and the Welsh National Anthem 'Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau'.

Since the standing committee's formation in 2002, they have helped local charities by raising more than £320,000.

Class act!

MEMBERS of Aberkenfig Retired Persons Club were recently entertained at their afternoon meeting by pupils from Tondu Primary School.

Mr Lewis's class, of years 1-2, put on a play depicting the biblical story of Noah's Ark. Noah himself sported a bushy beard, while the other children were dressed as animals.

They really made a great effort in relating the story, and Mr Lewis deserved the praise given by the members.

The club meets every Wednesday afternoon in the Len Evans Centre and ensures new members are warmly welcomed.

The next outing is to the covered shopping centre in Cwmbran on Thursday, May 5 – the coach setting off at 9.30am from Aberkenfig Bible Church, Pandy Road.

Call 01656 720823/ 720026 for details.

Tournament

THE Lance Taylor Memorial Football Tournament, organised by the Aberkenfig Boys and Girls Club, is being held at Ynysawdre Comprehensive School on Sunday, May 1.

Registration of the teams taking part is at 10am, with the first match kicking off at 10.30am and the last match at around 2pm.

There are ample car parking facilities at a charge of £1 which includes the programme of events.

There will be numerous stalls selling refreshments and other activities.

For further information, contact Mr G Pope on 07764 499147.

WI meeting

THE Aberkenfig and District WI president Eunice Williams, welcomed members to the recent meeting when 'Happy Birthday' was sung to Pat and Nancy.

The speaker was Gavin Davies, whose subject was 'An Uncommon Soldier'.

He referred to 1864 when the American Civil War was being fought, and a particular soldier.

The soldier wrote many letters home to the family, which were handed down through the generations.

The family knew something the army did not know – the soldier was a young woman.

Apparently this was quite common in those days. Although women were not officially accepted in the American forces, they obviously were not turned away.

Eunice reminded members of a busy few months ahead with the fish and chip lunch on April 27 and session of curling; the spring council meeting in Porthcawl on May 4 and the 30th anniversary party on June 8.

The annual lunch is at the Nicholls Arms on June 15; Glamorgan Show on July 9; Link social and fashion show on September 22, and the Federation quiz in Porthcawl on September 29.

The raffle was won by Eunice and Sally and the competition for an item beginning with the letter 'R' was won by Pearl, with a little glass rabbit.

The next meeting of Aberkenfig and District WI will be Wednesday, May 11, at 2pm in the Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig, when the speaker will be Christine Thomas, whose subject is 'textile jewellery'.

The competition will be for any item beginning with the letter 'K' and there will be a sales table.

Visitors and new members are welcome. More information about Aberkenfig and District WI can be found on the Bridgend Cobwebs website ie: www.cobwebs.co.uk or telephone Pat on 01656 721933.

Two choirs

'Bois Goetre-Hen a'r Cylch', along with the Coytrahen's Male Voice Choir's musical director Andrew Quick and accompanist Glesni Evans, have recently returned from their inaugural concert tour to north Devon.

The choir, along with numerous family, friends and guests, journeyed to the picturesque town of Bideford.

Torridge's male voice choir's musical director/secretary, Philip Pester, who also happens to be the Mayor of Bideford, had extended an invitation to the choir to join them in a joint charity concert at the High Street Methodist Church.

Much to the enjoyment of the large audience, the evening combined both English and Welsh language and songs.

Bois Goetre-Hen sang 'Ride The Chariot', 'Amen' and 'Gwahoddiad' and both choirs joined together to perform the evocative 'Softly as I Leave You'.

The hugely successful evening raised £635 for the Devon Air Ambulance Appeal, and was rounded off with a presentation to the Torridge choir of an engraved glass dragon and a Harry Juniper engraved Harvest Jug to Aubrey Evans, chairman of Bois Goetre-Hen.

Both choirs and their guests retired to the Conservative Club in Bideford for a buffet and 'Afterglow'.

The choir rehearses at Coytrahen community centre on Sunday evenings between 7.15pm-9.15pm.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

Easter services

MAUNDY Thursday, April 21 – each parish will celebrate its own Eucharist at 7pm.

Llansantffraid Betws and Aberkenfig Parish St Bride's church, Llansantffraid, Holy Eucharist, washing of feet and stripping of the altar.

On Good Friday, April 22, Liturgy service 10am; Hot cross buns and children's service 11am; watching with Christ on the Cross 12pm-3pm.

St Cein's church, Llangeinor, Good Friday devotions at 7pm.

Saturday, April 23, St David's Bettws, 7pm Service of Light and the first Eucharist of Easter Sunday.

Tondu Wesley Methodist Church, 3pm special service with music provided by the church choir.

St Bride's Church, Llansantffraid, family service 10.30am.

St David's Church, Betws, Holy Eucharist with hymns.

St John's Church, Aberkenfig, sung Eucharist at 9am.

St David's Church, Wyndham, sung Eucharist at 10am.

St Tyfodwg' Church, Glynogwr, sung Eucharist at 9am.

St David's, Pontycymer, Holy Eucharist with hymns 10am.

St Cein's, Llangeinor, Holy Eucharist with hymns 11.15am.

All Saints' Church, Pen-y-Fai, Sunday Sung Eucharist 10.30am.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

The ladies rock at Millennium Centre musical

COLWINSTON AND LLYSWORNEY WI NEWS

THIS month, 20 members went to the Millennium Centre to see *We Will Rock You*, and yes, we knew all the words to the songs and had a rocking good time!

The speakers in April were Linda Wade and Christine Nicholas, who gave an illustrated talk on 'The Rest', at Porthcawl.

With much humour and many anecdotes, we learned of its beginnings in the late 1800s to the present day.

We shall certainly be visiting for morning coffee and lunch when the open day is announced.

A visit to Parc Cefn On is planned for May, with afternoon tea afterwards.

The Denman Bursary draw was made and members were asked to help with the royal wedding children's tea party and the Open Gardens afternoon tea.

The next meeting is 'Resolutions' at which we will debate the closure of local libraries and the proposals for mega farms.

There will be a book and plant stall and wine and nibbles will be served. All are welcome on May 9 in the village hall at 7.30pm.

KATH JONES

'Great Poppy Party' in aid of the Legion

A 'Great Poppy Party' with a royal garden party theme – with something sparkling, afternoon tea and a string quartet – will be held at The Great House Hotel, Laleston, Bridgend to mark the 90th anniversary of the Royal British Legion.

Organiser Mrs Norma Bond explained: "There are many parties taking place in Bridgend and across the country to help raise £90 million for the British Legion in its 90th anniversary year.

"Here at the Great House Hotel, we are pleased to be able to help it continue its work supporting our brave service personnel past and present. There'll be food, entertainment and an afternoon of enjoyment for everyone."

The celebrations start at 3pm on Sunday, June 12.

Easter offers at SCATS

THIS Easter, SCATS Farm and Country Bridgend on Brackla Industrial Estate will stay open to celebrate the bank holiday weekend with 'grow your own' offers to give everyone a taste of the good life!

It will be open on Good Friday and Easter Saturday from 8.30am–5.30pm and from 10am–4pm on Easter Monday with advice, whether you're a beginner looking to get started, or seasoned grower.

Children will be kept entertained throughout the weekend with fun Easter activities, including a colouring competition and Easter egg hunt, with the chance to win a range of prizes, including chocolate Easter eggs.

CHRIST COLLEGE BRECON

CHRIST College has recently been awarded the best possible inspection grades by Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education & Training in Wales.

In its report, the Estyn inspection team judged Christ College to be 'Excellent' in all areas that it assessed and identified significant examples of sector-leading practice.

A particularly pleasing feature of the report is the recognition given to the high standards achieved at Christ College and the quality of provision and support provided to achieve these standards 'Pupils of all ages make very good progress and achieve particularly high standards in public examinations at keys stage 4 and post-16'.

Another feature that was particularly pleasing to the school was the observation that Christ College's 'extensive and enriching extra-curricular activities programme contributes significantly to pupils' personal and social development and their academic progress'. This acknowledges that we teach well beyond and around the narrow requirements of examinations, and believe that education takes place everywhere a pupil goes and not just in the classroom.

At Christ College Brecon we work hard to create a stable environment, with extensive choices under the one roof, where pupils can be happy, grow in confidence and maturity, and thrive academically and in every other way. We pride ourselves on the pursuit of excellence, on encouraging our pupils to find and develop their talents and preparing them for the world beyond school.

To register for our Open Morning on Saturday 7th May, please contact Mrs Stephens on 01874 615440 or via admissions@christcollegebrecon.com.

'SMILE, PLEASE!'

ABOVE: The 'wedding' group poses for the camera.

Llanhari Primary School has Welsh 'royal wedding'!

LLANHARI Primary School celebrated its very own Welsh royal 'wedding' last week.

Everyone dressed for the occasion, the flags were out and a royal garden party concluded the official ceremonies of the day.

The afternoon began with everyone walking down the red carpet of the elaborately decorated hall.

Rev Pitman was dressed for the royal ceremony and staff and guests wore their best attire. Trumpets sounded and Welsh hymns were sung.

The 'happy couple' left in their limousine and arrived to cheers at the garden party.

Headteacher Jeremy Phillips, said: "May I take this opportunity to thank all the staff at the school who worked so hard to stage the event, Rev Pitman for leading the service, Mrs Jeffs and Mrs Woodland for making the 'wedding cake' and, of course, the children for coming dressed for the occasion.

"May I also make a special mention of Miss Jones and Mrs Hatter for leading the event and the term's work which led to such a wonderful day."

Trip to Kingswood

YEAR-6 had a great time at Kingswood at the end of March.

We were all really proud of our pupils, who were praised by the staff of other schools.

Many of them made new friends from other schools who they will meet in year-7 next year.

May I thank Miss Cleaver and Mr Pitman for looking after our children and attending the three-day residential course in Shropshire.

William and Kate, take note!

Celebrations

AGAIN the children of Llanhari have maintained the tradition and exceeded all expectations this year in the Easter Bonnet Parade and the Egg decorating competition.

The annual 'egg pacing' event also took place which was held outside in the yard. May we thank Mr Francis for judging the competitions and attending the Easter festivities.

Easter Bonnets winners

Class 1 – 1st, Lydia Welch; 2nd, Ben Price; 3rd, Mary Kate Stewart.
Class 2 – 1st, Kian Hucker; 2nd, Kieran Duhig; 3rd, Paris Vowles.
Class 3 – 2nd, Harvey Howell; 3rd, Eleanor Heaslip.
Class 4 – 1st, Levi Lewis; 2nd, Ethan Milsom.

Egg Pacing winners

Class 1 – 1st, Taylor Lewis; 2nd, Mary Kate Stewart; 3rd, Ben Price.
Class 2 – 1st, Jorja Maidment; 2nd, Lloyd Roberts; 3rd, Mason Apsee.
Class 3 – 1st, Cole Gray; 2nd, Kelly Ann Stewart; 3rd, Dylan Rees.
Class 4 – 1st, Katie Bartlett; 2nd, Zander Lowrey; 3rd, Evan Webb.
Class 5 – 1st, Conan Flower; 2nd, Luke Jones; 3rd, Caiyler Howell.
Class 6 – 1st, Joshua Heaslip; 2nd, Ross Cooper; 3rd, Demi Rees.
Class 7 – 1st, Cameron Minnett; 2nd, Sophie Wellington; 3rd, Jessica Wigley.

Decorated Eggs

Class 5 – 1st, Tamzin Phillips; 2nd, Angelica Svensen; 3rd, Tia and Logan Daddow.
Class 6 – 1st, Luke Wigley; 2nd, Selena Lemoneigh; 3rd, Rasmus Thomas.
Class 7 – 1st, Niall Cudmore; 2nd, Carys White; 3rd, Rhys Griffin.
Everyone who entered received a Cadbury's creme egg and the winners won an Easter egg. Well done!

A message from Mr Francis – our very own local historian.

I was delighted to attend the Pace Egg rolling custom at Llanhari Primary School. Mr Peter Townsend and I revived this ancient Easter custom about 30 years ago and I was told that we were the only school in Wales that then did egg rolling!

In earlier times, the custom was performed on any grassy slope up and down the land and usually by children. The custom, I think, has a religious origin. I believe that an egg rolling ceremony is still performed every year on the lawns of the White House in Washington DC.

It was nice to see all the pupils of the school rolling their eggs and enjoying the light hearted competition.

Important announcement affecting your Freeview TV services.

Keep this, it might be useful

Changes are being made to the Wenvoe transmitter on Wednesday 27 April.
If you use a Freeview* TV or box and find you are missing channels you will need to re-tune on or after this date to get them back.

How to re-tune using your TV remote

- Switch on your Freeview TV or Box and press 'menu' on the remote control.
- Select the 'set up' or 'installation' option then 'first time installation' option (sometimes called 'factory reset', 'full re-tune' or 'default settings').
- Press 'OK' if your equipment asks if you want to delete all your channels. Don't worry, this is normal.
- If you are prompted for a code, try 0000 or 1234. Channels will be automatically installed.
  Your equipment may shut down and restart.

These instructions are a guide only. For more detailed re-tuning instructions of popular makes and models visit **digitaluk.co.uk/retuning** or call **08456 50 50 50**.

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PRAISE FOR NEW REST BAY WALKWAY, AND...

Town council agrees terms on skateboard park licence

PORTHCAWL Town Council has accepted the terms of a licence to occupy land at Heol y Goedwig needed for its skateboard park.

The town council voted to accept the terms and conditions laid down by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) which owns the land.

This clears the way for work to actually begin on building the skateboard park, which has been under discussion for two years.

It is being funded jointly by the town council with a grant from BCBC and other bodies. The cost is about £85,000.

Council leader David Deere said he was delighted that, at long last, the final obstacle had been removed: "We will sign the contract with the contractors shortly and then work can start. It should be up and running in time for the summer holiday period. It's the end of a long road for the town council."

NEW REST BAY WALKWAY

The new walkway being built between Rest Bay and the end of the esplanade is already a big hit with visitors and residents.

Coun Deere reported that despite the fact that work was not completed, people were already using it.

He said: "It's going to very popular. It means that people in wheelchairs and those pushing prams will be able to walk from town right up to Rest Bay."

The town council contributed £20,000 towards the scheme, but the total cost has been £400,000, with most of the money coming from the Welsh Assembly Government under its coastal path scheme.

HOSPITAL WILL CLOSE

THE ABERTAWE Bro Morgannwg NHS Board has approved plans to close Maesgwyn Hospital in Bryncethin.

The hospital, which had 20 beds in Teilo Ward, is expected to close from the end of May.

Alternative arrangements will be made for the long stay patients who were at the hospital, and those who used it for respite care will also receive that respite in a different setting.

All staff will be retained within the board.

Any money saved will be ploughed into improving the team which provides care at home. It is planned to make this a seven-day a week service.

Caerau tin shops to be demolished

The 'tin shops' in Caerau are to be finally demolished and the land cleared this summer, Coun Steve Smith told Maesteg Town Council.

The shops, made of corrugated iron, stand at the bottom of what was the original line of Cymmer Road before the alignment of the road was changed.

They have been empty for some years and have been semi-derelict.

Coun Smith said that it was a desolate area and he was pleased action was being taken.

Mayor remembers her days as a student of martial arts!

ABOVE:
The Mayor with the Dragons and adults.

PHOTOGRAPHY by KEITH E MORGAN

The Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emment-Lewis, is welcomed to the Tang Soo Do Korean Karate class by instructor Adrian Humphries.

THE Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emment-Lewis, recently visited the Porthcawl Tang Soo Do Korean Karate class in All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Avenue.

The Mayor is no stranger to martial arts, having attended judo classes in Griffin Park when she was a 15-year-old pupil at Porthcawl Comprehensive School. She was welcomed by Adrian Humphries, the instructor.

The class teaches traditional Tang Soo Do Federation Korean Karate, and classes are held for: children aged 4-6 and 7-12, as well as adults.

The Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emment-Lewis, (right), as a 15-year-old comprehensive school student at judo class in Griffin Park.

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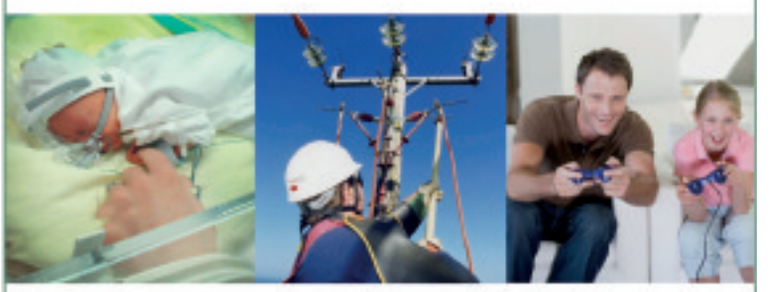

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Porthcawl's Justin runs a marathon, for his father

RUNNER Justin Jones (38) from Porthcawl had a special reason for tackling the Virgin London Marathon on Sunday – to raise funds for The Prostate Cancer Charity.

Justin Jones celebrates at the finish.

Justin set himself the challenge of completing the 26.2 mile race after his father was diagnosed with prostate cancer last June, and completed the iconic route alongside 215 other people who trained for months in a bid to cross the finish line, all in support of the charity.

Afterwards, he commented: "Running the London Marathon is a fantastic experience. It's painful, but it's nothing compared to what people being treated for prostate cancer have to go through.

"Miles 17 to 23 were really tough, but seeing my family at the 24.5-mile mark helped to push me to the finish line.

"My dad was diagnosed with prostate cancer last June and will start treatment next week. I really wanted to run for a charity that supports men such as my dad and families just like ours."

Every year, 10,000 men die from prostate cancer and 37,000 men are diagnosed with the disease. The money raised by Justin will help to fund the charity and its efforts to fight prostate cancer on every front - through research, support, information and campaigning.

In total, more than £100,000 was raised for the charity by its Virgin London Marathon runners alone.

Gemma Cornwell, head of community fundraising at The Prostate Cancer charity said: "The Virgin London Marathon is among the major events in the sporting calendar and we've had an overwhelming response from people who wanted to run for us this year.

"We're absolutely thrilled that Justin crossed the finish line after many months training hard in preparation for the big day.

"It's thanks to Justin and all our dedicated runners that so far they have raised, £100,000.

"We estimate that the final amount raised will be an incredible £330,000," she concluded.

Trust's promise on front-line nurses

FRONT-LINE nursing posts are not being cut within Princess of Wales and other hospitals served by the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Trust.

The board says it has made a commitment not to cut these jobs, despite having to find millions in savings during the current financial year.

The Welsh Assembly Government, which funds the NHS in Wales, decided to take £430m out of the health budget this year, with £1 billion being lost over the next three years.

A spokesman for ABM said that since the beginning of the year, the board had appointed 80 registered nurses and 41 health care support workers. It is currently progressing 50 nursing vacancies.

The board believes considerable savings can be made by improving the quality of care and moving to more cost effective solutions.

The board says that significant savings have been made over the past three years – of between three to five per cent per year. Despite this, the number of doctors employed has risen from 1,219 in 2008-09 to 1,241 in 2011.

Bridgend council is monitoring troubled care homes company

OFFICERS from the Adult Social Care department at Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) are closely watching developments at a company which operates four major care homes in the borough, *JAYNE ISAAC reports*.

Southern Cross runs Southmead in South Cornelly, Blackmill in the Ogmore Valley, Abergarw in Brynmenyn and Glanffrwd in Pencoed. Between them, they offer hundreds of beds to elderly people in the borough.

The company has been in difficulties and social services chiefs across the country have been drawing up contingency plans. The firm operates 750 homes which provide care for 31,000 people.

A spokesman for BCBC said that it was aware of the current difficulties being experienced by Southern Cross and officers have been monitoring the situation, along with the Care and Social Service Inspectorate for Wales.

The council has also been working closely with neighbouring councils in south Wales to prepare contingency plans as a precautionary measure to ensure that services will continue as normal.

A council spokesman added: "Residents can be assured that in the event that the situation develops further, they will still be able to receive appropriate care services and that it will be very much business as usual."

He added that they had received central guidance and were working to ensure that current services are not destabilised.

* BCBC has said that there are no plans to close any of its existing residential care homes.

Rumours have been circulating in Maesteg that Hyfrydol is under threat, but the council has denied this.

The council has already stated that it is seeking a partner organisation to manage some of its services including home care.

But if such a partner is identified, the council will ensure that residents continue to receive high quality care and that services are developed to meet changing needs, expectations and registration requirements.

The final decision on this will be taken by the cabinet.

Dramatic sea rescue on Coney beach

A SEASIDE tragedy was averted last weekend when three young girls were in danger of being swept out to sea at Porthcawl.

The rescue involved three young girls who got into difficulties at Coney Beach when they were caught in a rip tide on Saturday (April 16).

Fortunately for the girls, about 40 members of the Surf Lifesaving Association of Wales were there on a training weekend and raced to help them.

The GEM understands that the lifesavers were being trained in operating inshore rescue boats.

The girls were reported to be between five and eight years of age, and two were taken to hospital as it was suspected they had swallowed water.

The other girl was checked out by paramedics at the scene.

The association's power craft chairman, Chris Parry of Penybont Surf Life Saving Club, was quoted as saying that if it had happened the previous weekend, there could have been a fatality.

Lifesavers expressed concern that similar incidents could occur over the Easter weekend – especially as the weather forecast is good – and that on beaches that are not being patrolled, the consequences could be serious.

ISLAND FARM RESIDENTS PLAN FRESH PROTEST

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

She went on: "There is no money to dual the A48 from Ewenny roundabout to Laleston, so what they are proposing are ways around the problems associated with coping with traffic going to and from the new development.

"There are also fears that far from creating new jobs at the science park, the plans could drive people out.

"Companies already there could face horrendous problems with traffic travelling through the park to and from the sports complex. It's a huge backward step."

The action group is also opposing the development on the grounds that it is not needed.

She continued: "Why are they building a rugby league stadium when the Crusaders have said that they intend to stay in Wrexham for the next 25 years?

"Who will use that 15,000 seat stadium? They say regional rugby union games could be held there, but the Ospreys have their base at the Liberty Stadium."

STADIA

Mrs Roderick said that plans to build two separate stadia – one for rugby union and one for football – were perverse as they went against current trends to have shared facilities.

"Bridgend Football Club has put half of the money it got from having to move out of its old Coychurch Road ground into upgrading facilities at the Brewery Field, which it shares with Bridgend Ravens RFC.

" That ground is large enough to cater for the fans attending the matches for both clubs.

"Everywhere else, they are building shared stadia – look at the new one in Cardiff for the Blues and Cardiff City and the Liberty Stadium which the Ospreys share with the Swans. They work well.

"But in Bridgend, there are plans for three stadia and we do not believe that any of them will be viable. There is no need for them.

"This scheme goes against the Bridgend Unitary Development Plan and planning rules state that before you go against a UDP, you must prove an over-riding need. That is not proved here."

MEETING

Bridgend Town Council is to hold a special meeting at 7pm on May 3 at its offices.

Special provision will be made to allow representatives of both the objectors and the applicants to speak.

A number of protesters were present at the monthly council meeting on Tuesday, when Coun Diane Burns said that she was concerned that members had decided at the last meeting to note the letter from the action group and defer the correspondence until the application was "finalised."

She went on: " This application is very important to the people of Bridgend. We must discuss the application soon and we have no time to waste."

She said that the town council had previously decided to support the plans subject to them receiving a report from the highways department, but no such report had been received.

She said that the highway issues were crucial with a new road being proposed to link with the science park.

"We do not want anything that will affect the jobs potential of this high-tech area.

"We must write as a council to the borough council because our views are not being considered. The highway proposals are quite frightening."

Coun Edith Hughes said that the council should write to the highways department to find out what was being proposed.

She said: "Ewenny Road cannot be widened because of the houses either side.

"And the A48 will not be widened. The area around this development will be choc-a-block with traffic.

"I am waiting to see what the highways department will come up with."

Coun Bob Burns said that although this was an outline application, it was very important because it would decide in principle what was to happen.

RESIDENTS

He said that the council should hold a special meeting for residents of Oldcastle and others affected to have their say.

He added that although this application had been around since December 2008 it had not been properly considered yet by the town council.

"We must make sure that people's views are listened to and they are all given the opportunity to express themselves clearly and forcibly."

The town council is to write to both the planning department and highways department of BCBC, seeking more information before the special meeting takes place.

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Airport looks on the bright side as bmibaby flies away!

by PHILIP IRWIN

CARDIFF Airport was looking on the bright side last week, when news came that the low-cost airline bmibaby was pulling out.

The airline currently flies to 10 European destinations from Cardiff, and this will cease at the end of the summer.

However, in a statement the airport pointed out that bmibaby had seen its passenger numbers in Cardiff fall, from 34 per cent of total passengers in 2006/07, to less than 14 per cent in 2011.

A spokeswoman said: "Cardiff Airport is disappointed, albeit unsurprised, at bmibaby's decision to withdraw from Wales altogether.

"The airline has also announced it is withdrawing from Manchester Airport.

"Since 2002, both Cardiff Airport and the Welsh Assembly Government have provided significant support for bmibaby to operate in Wales as the nation's low cost carrier – only to see this announcement.

"It is regrettable that bmibaby has cited the economic climate as its reasons for withdrawing both in Manchester and Cardiff, as both regions have demonstrated strong economic prospects.

"Cardiff Airport looks forward to working with other airlines and other partners in order to facilitate increased opportunities going forward.

"Last month saw the start of the Helvetic Airways four-weekly service to Zurich, achieved through a joint partnership approach."

The managing director of Cardiff Airport, Patrick Duffy, was reported as saying that the departure of bmibaby "cleared the decks" for existing airlines to expand, or for a new one to operate from Cardiff.

The Labour candidate for the Vale in the Assembly elections, Jane Hutt, said: "It is very sad that bmibaby is leaving Cardiff Airport. Although they had run-down their presence and scheduled flights at Cardiff over the past couple of years they will be a loss – both in terms of services for customers in south Wales and in revenue for the airport.

"It is essential that one or more new operators are secured and I'm certain that the new Assembly Government will be working closely with Abertis – the airport's owners – to enhance the number of routes to and from Cardiff."

The Conservative Assembly candidate for the Vale, Angela Jones-Evans, said that her party had made a manifesto pledge to seek to establish a direct air link between Wales and North America.

She said: "As US companies remain the biggest group of inward investors in the south Wales economy, there could well be a case made for such a route.

"Given the importance of an international airport to the Vale economy, the attraction and retention of foreign direct investors, as well as the development of tourism, I would make it a priority to work with Cardiff Airport as well as organisations such as Cardiff & Co and the airlines to secure such air routes at the earliest possible opportunity."

The Plaid Cymru candidate, Dr Ian Johnson, said: "The biggest concern for us locally must be the jobs of people working at Cardiff Airport. I hope the management there are pulling out all the stops to find replacement flights and routes that will offer airport users value for money and a range of flights."

Mayor's masked charity ball proves a winner...

THE Mayor of the Vale, Coun Colin Osborne, and his wife Ruby, recently held a masked charity ball at Dyffryn Gardens.

The 'masked guests' included John Major, Alan Sugar, Cheryl Cole, David Beckham, Madonna and even a Meerkat! Dancing was to music from the Bridgend Big Band.

Coun Osborne said: "I would like to thank all the individuals, companies and councillors who supported this event. It was a wonderful evening and raised just over £2,200 for the Mayor's charities".

He also thanked the local companies who had made donations and had sponsored the event.

In the photograph, above, with the Vale Mayor and Mayoress are Mr Chris Hopkins and his guests from Ted Hopkins Limited.

EASTER IN PENARTH

SPECIAL Easter services are taking place in the parish of Penarth All Saints.

On Good Friday (April 22) there is a children's service at 11am, followed by hot cross buns in the hall. From 12 noon to 3pm, there will be Good Friday devotions.

On Easter Saturday, the Easter Vigil service begins by candlelight at 7pm.

On Easter Sunday in All Saints there will be Holy Eucharist at 8am, an All Age Eucharist service for all the family at 10 am, and Evensong at 6pm.

At St Peter's Old Cogan (off Sully Road) there will be Holy Eucharist at 3.30pm.

TABERNACLE SERVICES

THE Tabernacle Presbyterian Church at Methodist Lane, Llantwit Major, will open for prayer and meditation, led by the Minister, Rev Duncan Ballantyne, on Good Friday, from 12 noon until 3pm.

Holy Communion is on Easter morning at 9am, led by Rev Ballantyne, followed by breakfast.

Easter Sunday worship at 11am will be led by Mr Michael Ford of Barry, followed by refreshments.

Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg celebrates a wide range of achievements by pupils

Science pupils enjoyed a theatrical performance in 'science week' and also participated in workshops at the National Museum and Techniquest.

Pupils have been raising money for the Mount Carmel School in India.

India appeal

The Welsh class year-9 set 1 has been busy collecting money for Mount Carmel School in New Delhi, India.

Bro Morgannwg has connections with schools in New Delhi through the 'UKIERI' project.

Megan Thomason from the class and her mother are going out to India during the Easter holidays and wanted to give them a small donation on behalf of the school. The class has raised £380.

On to Swansea!

A large contingent of talented pupils will be travelling down the M4 in May to compete in the Urdd National Eisteddfod in Swansea.

They triumphed in a highly successful county eisteddfod in March, with the junior choir, junior girls choir, junior llefaru group, junior and senior dramatic presentation groups, senior ymgom, Georgina Griggs – musical solo, Megan Morris – harp solo and the junior folk dancing team all winning in competitions against Glantaf and Plasmawr schools.

Congratulations to all pupils involved and to the staff who have dedicated hours to the practising.

'Spelling Bee'

Pupils from year 7 have been participating in a project organised by 'Routes into Languages' entitled Spelling Bee.

The aim of the competition is to improve spelling and vocabulary in French.

All pupils have been competing keenly in their classes and a grand final was held in March to ascertain which pupils would represent the school in the South Wales final.

Lois Aled, Nia Fenn, Nia Brown and Terry James were worthy winners. Many of the finalists are pictured with Mr Paul Mason from the Modern Foreign Language Department.

Cory Allen.

Dafydd George.

Sports reading club

The school has established a new reading club which meets on a weekly basis with Mr Paul Mason our modern foreign language teacher.

The year 8 boys are avidly reading sports magazines which range from Rugby World, Match, Kick to Dr Who, Beano and Nintendo.

This is one of the many schemes at Ysgol y Fro to promote reading amongst our pupils. We would like to thank Mr Paul Mason for organising this special reading club.

BBC news report

Fortunate pupils from years 7, 8 and 9 have thoroughly enjoyed the experience recently of creating news bulletins for the BBC as part of the BBC News Report Project.

They were able to participate in a question and answer session with Huw Edwards and Sian Lloyd, and they also planned and filmed their own bulletins which were shown on the school and BBC's website on March 24.

Highlights included Cory Allen's first cap for Wales Under 18's at St Helen.

Budding reporters – watch this space.

Academic success

Congratulations to two year 13 pupils Catrin Williams and Kristie Higgins who have been awarded entrance scholarships to the University of Wales Aberystwyth.

Kristie will study history, whereas Catrin has chosen to study Welsh and German.

International honours

Following hot on the heels of Cory Allen who won his first representative honors during the season when he played for the Wales under-18 rugby team against France, fellow year-13 pupil Steffan Jones has been chosen to represent Wales schoolboys under-18 team against Northern Ireland.

Everyone was delighted to be able to follow his exploits on Sky Sports!

Year-9 pupil Dafydd George completes the trio by winning his international vest in a cross country meeting between Welsh, Irish and Scottish Schools recently.

Dafydd came a creditable 22nd place in this race representing Wales under 15s.

Science department

It has been an extremely busy time in the science department.

Year-9 enjoyed a performance of Science Junkie and Year 7 & 8 saw a performance of 'Gofynnwch wrth Wallace' by Theatre Na Nog during 'National Science Week'.

Sixth formers studying biology have been further afield participating in workshops at the National Museum and Techniquest.

Youngsters who took part in the 'Routes into Languages' project.

Kristie Higgins and Catrin Williams.

Pupils helped to create news bulletins for the BBC as part of a current affairs project.

Celebrating raising money for the Mount Carmel School.

NEWS FROM THE PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Sunshine (and brambles) on a stroll in the Forest of Dean...

THE weather couldn't have been more fitting, when eight walkers joined Terry and Val on a trip up to the Forest of Dean as bright sunshine welcomed them upon their arrival.

They began from the picnic site of Wench Ford, situated along the valley from Blakeney.

The group entered the Forest of Dean and began by climbing up through blossoming gorse bushes and every rambler's nightmare, brambles!

They stopped further on in bright sunshine for morning coffee with glorious views across the Severn Estuary before continuing along quiet lanes and through fields, then by way of a disused railway track to reach Gatcombe.

Once noted for salmon fishing and exporting timber which was shipped to Milford Haven and Plymouth, the waterfront originally had a quay, stone and timber pier and a slipway.

When the south Wales main railway line, which runs through the hamlet was built in 1851, everything except the quay on the landward side of the railway was destroyed.

Gatcombe's most famous resident was allegedly the Elizabethan mariner Sir Francis Drake (1540–1596) who sailed around the world in his ship, the *Golden Hind*.

The group stopped for lunch where they had fine views across the Severn Estuary to Sharpness, famed for the Gloucester and Sharpness canal.

Leaving Blakeney, a small, thriving village, the group took the steady climb to once more reach the Forest of Dean.

On April 23, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 10-mile moderate/hard walk at Pontneddfechan and the waterfalls; contact Clive on 029 2065 4156.

On April 26, meet 9.30am at Cogan for a 5.5-mile easy walk to the Giant's Bite from Quakers Yard; contact Val H on 029 2051 3274.

JOY STRANGWARD

Antiques road show with a difference!

MERTHYR MAWR WI NEWS

DURING the March meeting Merthyr Mawr WI held its very own 'Antiques Road Show' with John Owen from Cowbridge, who talked about his collection and brought along a few items of his own.

He then commented on items brought by members and a very enjoyable evening was rounded off with coffee and bara brith to celebrate St David's Day.

At the end of March, members enjoyed a day trip to Llancaiach Hall, a very interesting historic house

In April they held a fashion show arranged by Samantha of Ewenny and were treated to a lovely show of clothes. Some of our members acted as models and I am sure many of us visited the shop the next day!

President Margaret Batten reminded members of the half yearly council meeting on May 4, in Porthcawl and the annual walk on May 25.

The next meeting will be on May 4, at Ewenny Community Hall and it will be the resolutions meeting. Members were reminded to read the magazine beforehand so they can have a good discussion.

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Charities benefit from sponsored walk

Coun Magan Butcher presenting a cheque for £2,000 to Jade Lee of Velindre.

THREE local charities were the beneficiaries from a charity walk that took place in Kenfig last year.

For last year's Halloween, Coun Megan Butcher organised a fancy dress sponsored walk to raise funds for those 'Touched by Cancer'.

The walk started at the Kenfig National Nature Reserve and finished at the Prince of Wales Public House at Kenfig, where a hog roast had been laid on by landlord Gareth Maund.

The walk was very well supported, with a large turnout.

Recently, Coun Butcher gave cheques to three charities from the total that had been raised by the event.

The presentations took place in St. Michael's Church at the Sandville Self-Help Centre, Sandville Court, Tôn Kenfig.

Altogether, the magnificent sum of £6,000 was raised and cheques for £2,000 were presented to LATCH, Velindre and Sandville.

Coun Butcher thanked all who had turned out to support the 'Touched by Cancer' walk and said that she was so pleased with the response that she was going to make the walk an annual Halloween event.

Sandra Owen of LATCH lighting a candle in St. Michael's Church in the Sandville.

ABOVE (left to right): Jade Lee (Velindre fundraiser); Douglas 'Lopper' Wilson; Coun Megan Butcher; Sister Gwyneth Poacher (Sandville); Adrian Morgan; Sandra Owen (LATCH); and Huw Owen.

Photographs by **KEITH E MORGAN**

ABOVE and BELOW: A flashback to last year's charity fancy dress walk, with participants gathering at the Prince of Wales pub.

Shock news!

On my return from holiday, I was amazed by some news passed to me by a shocked Gerald O'Sullivan, hon secretary of Kenfig Hill RFC.

It seems that Des Brothers, a major supporter of Pyle Rugby, has mellowed a little...

For years, Des has stated that, '*hell would freeze over*' before he would go to watch the Mules play a game, other than against Pyle.

However, he not only turned up to watch Kenfig Hill play Seven Sisters, he also had his photograph taken with Gerald!

With Des coming to watch the game and having previously sold a 'Mules Calendar' to that other Pyle stalwart, Jeff Kent, Gerald thinks that the impossible may now be achieved, so he has been out to buy a Lottery ticket.

Kenfig Society

THE rescheduled annual general meeting of the Kenfig Society will now be held in the Pyle Life Centre on Tuesday, May 17, at 7.15 pm. All are welcome to this meeting.

For further details, telephone Terry Robbins on 01656 782351.

Community Watch

FOLLOWING complaints about vehicles using the cycle path from Haulfryn to Bedford Park, the Neighbourhood Policing Team say that BCBC acted swiftly and sent out a team to replace the lock on the gate, and the problem has now been resolved.

Local residents in the area close to the junction of Pyle Road and Marlas Close in Pyle, have been warned that persistent offenders parking on double yellow lines will be issued with tickets in future.

Patrols have been made at different times of the day to check illegal parking in the areas of Bridge Street and Waunbant Road, Kenfig Hill, and to date four warnings and six penalty notices have been issued.

Local businesses have been advised that if any of their vehicles are seen to be causing an obstruction or parking on the pavement, a ticket will be issued.

Patrols have been carried out following two reports of anti-social behaviour but the youths had left prior to their arrival.

However, during another patrol, PCSO Nerys Lloyd came across several 18-year-olds in the area with alcohol. When she asked them to move on, they did so quietly.

Other patrols have been carried out with no further issues seen at this time.

Junior craft

IT was great to hear the excited voices of young children enjoying themselves at the Junior Craft Class held in the Talbot Community Centre last Saturday.

The class was held by Paula James, who also supplied all the materials required, including Easter eggs, bunnies and chicks free of charge, for the youngsters to make such things as Easter cards, presents and friendship bracelets.

However, although the children who came had a great time, the number who turned up to take advantage of this activity was disappointing, as it was well advertised in the schools ,with posters also being put up around the village.

Parents often complain that there is not much locally for the children to do in their spare time, but when it is offered and for free, it's a shame that it is not better supported.

Royal screening

ENJOY a turkey dinner at the Luncheon Club in Talbot Community Centre tomorrow, with prizes for the best Easter bonnets worn by both the ladies and the men.

The royal wedding will be shown on the Big Screen in the community centre. There is a 'royal day disco' for children aged 4-10, from 5.30–7pm.

There are a few tickets left for the springtime community party on May 14. Call Cheryl on 01656 749754 for more details.

Pupils' success

MYNYDD Cynffig Junior School pupils who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week were: Daisy Pearcey, Class 1, Thomas Llewellyn, Class 2, Jacob Hesketh, Class 3, Corey Paul, Class 4, Connor McCarthy, Class 5, Lauren Phillips, Class 6 and Lowri Williams from Class 7. The headteacher's award went to Aiden Thomas.

Sport – On April 7, the school was represented by year-5 in an 'Olympic event' at Bridgend Recreation Centre. They had been chosen to represent France, with 24 other schools in the county representing countries of the world.

The pupils took part in girls tag rugby, girls football, boys basketball, boys football and mixed squash.

Hannah Williams, Mathew Key, and Kian Thomas carried the flag and led the team in to the event. Apart from their sporting activities, the children also presented a display of their work on France and the Olympics and with every pupil from year-5 taking part they had an excellent day. The girls tag rugby and the boys basketball teams gained gold medals. Thanks to Mr Pedlar, Mr Price and Miss Bevan for their hard work in preparing the children, the day proved to be a huge success.

On April 13, the school entered an 'A' team represented by Ethan Hopkins, Jamie Knight, Thomas Morgan, Luke Dingle, Ceiran Jones, Lewis Blythe, Callum Wright and Jordan Baker, and a 'B' side represented by Louie Flower, Connor Farnham, Leon Jones, Jac Flanagan, Jack Underhill, Nathan Ruck, Morgan Kent and Phillip Burnell in the Cefn Sevens rugby tournament at Cae Gof Fields in Cefn Cribwr.

COMMUNITY NEWS from **KENFIG HILL AND PYLE**

by ***Richard Sims***

Telephone: 01656 746840
Mobile: 07802 439679
E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

ABOVE: Des Brothers (Pyle rugby supporter), and Gerald O'Sullivan (Hon Sec of Kenfig Hill RFC).

ABOVE:
Coun Paula James with young 'crafters' at the Talbot Centre.

The teams played tremendous rugby to reach the finals of both the plate and cup competitions.

In the final the 'A' team never quite got to grips with the game and although they worked hard right up to the final whistle, they lost to a very strong Brynmenyn side.

However, the 'B' side made up for the disappointment by winning their final by two tries to one in a hard fought game against Pyle.

On Wednesday night last week, Lloyd Thomas and Anthony Burnell, played for West Wales against East Wales at Ebbw Vale.

Both played well and the school hopes that they will go on to represent Wales at all levels.

The whole school was thrilled when they brought their jerseys and trophies to show everyone in assembly.

Easter walk

THE parish of Pyle and Kenfig Good Friday walk starts at 10am tomorrow from the Heath Bridge surgery in Kenfig Hill and will stop en-route to the St James' Church Hall in Pyle for 'Stations of the Cross' readings.

Hot Cross buns with tea or coffee will be served on arrival at the hall.

KPC Youth

TO all those young local people (aged eight-plus) at a loose end over Easter, KPC Youth, the charity based in Pyle will be open during the holidays (except the Bank Holidays and the evening of April 19).

KPC Youth offers a wide range of on-site activities including an outdoor skate park, BMX track, multi-sports court, an adventure play area, a fantastic computer room with internet access, music, arts and crafts, pool, table tennis and lots more.

Membership is just £2, with daytime and evening sessions costing 50p per session for members or £1 for non-members.

The centre is located next to Pil Primary School, Off Pyle Inn Way, Pyle. To find out more, call in to the centre or telephone 01565 745399/749219.

Fun workshop

A CHILDREN'S workshop is being held at St Theodore's Church on Saturday April 23, at 10 am, when they will be making such things as Easter cards and cakes for the congregation.

On Easter Day (April 24), the blessing of the Easter garden and Eucharist will be held in St Theodore at 9.30 am and St Coleman at 11am. Easter Eucharist will also be held in St Theodore at 6pm.

On April 28, an Easter tea party will be held in St Theodore's Church grounds at 2.30 pm.

At 8.30 pm on the same day, there will be a service of Light and First Eucharist of the Resurrection.

Potholes: 'Time for drivers to complain'

RECENTLY, my car would not move from its parked position and so I had to call out the AA Home Start.

A nice man diagnosed the problem straight-away – both front suspension springs were broken and it seems this is now a common occurrence.

Chris Pope's garage in Llantwit Major told me he is regularly getting three or four cars a week to fit new springs, all due to pothole damage.

Modern cars are built for smooth roads and not for off-the-road pot holing, he said.

There is a very dangerous ongoing problem of potholes that festoon Vale roads.

The damage to the springs also ruined the tyres and broke the brake pipes.

Had I been travelling at the time, a fatal accident could easily have been the end result.

The council say they are lacking funds and are trying to get money from the Government for the repairs – but they are playing with people's lives on our already dangerous roads.

Why waste money sending men out with yellow markers to select a few holes and leave others right next to them?

Those left will get worse, and yet again a man will have to come out with his yellow marker – and so on, *ad infinitum!*

I shall send my £200 bill to the council, although I know they will not take any blame because I cannot identify the exact pothole(s) and the number of similar claims means there are too many already.

Please do complain and try to claim if you are in this unfortunate situation.

It just might make them sit up and take notice.

WE Henderson,
St Athan

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'WE ARE LOSING WHAT IS PRECIOUS TO OUR TOWN'

I WOULD like to thank Mrs G Neil of Clive Road, Barry Island, for her kind comments regarding my film 'Barry and The Island'.

I certainly hope that this DVD is also bringing back memories for many others.

I, myself, do not remember much of Butlins or the Knap Lido, but I did attend the cinema quite frequently.

For those who have watched the film, you will note that there is a section about the Theatre Royal which is now going to be demolished and made into a care home.

It is to be built in a very foolish place and it will take away any possibility of ever having a cinema there again. History has repeated itself.

Landmark building?... do me a favour!

I read that this care home will help with the regeneration process:

I welcome anybody who can tell me how a care home can possibly regenerate Barry in any way.

Last Friday, a local resident, who had seen my film, came up to me and remarked, '*there isn't anything to do in Barry anymore*.'

I agreed.

So what's left? Keep watching the leisure centre because that's probably next to go.

And since the council have no imagination whatsoever, we're likely to see more flats and houses.

I remember when I first set eyes on the the Dock/ Waterfront plans and saw lots and lots and lots of houses....and a supermarket!

Apparently, there is a tourism department in Barry; *this is news*... when are they going to start?

So, while I thank those who are watching my film and thank those who do care for this place, I also condemn those who are willfully ripping out the heart of this town.

Michael James Moore
Film maker, Barry Island

Gritting factors to be considered

WE write in response to Clare Curtis' letter in The GEM on April 14.

The report presented to scrutiny committee (economy and environment) on April 5 dealt with, amongst other issues, the gritting of roads in the Vale of Glamorgan.

It set out the criteria used when deciding whether any additional roads should be added to the gritting schedule.

Currently, 43 per cent of the highway network is treated. Whilst no guidance has been given by the Wales Audit Office, the English Audit Office recommends that highway authorities should routinely treat between 25 per cent and 38 per cent of roads.

It is not, however, possible to treat all roads. Estate and other minor roads without an appreciable gradient are generally not treated.

It is also not possible to treat all bus routes.

During the cold spell, and in particular between December 17-28, 2010, we spoke to officers about the provision of grit bins and also made requests for certain roads in Dyfan ward to be treated.

The issue, however, has to be looked at strategically, and is dependent on available workforce, equipment and the availability of salt.

On April 5, committee was informed that the winter maintenance budget had been overspent by £300,000.

Clearly, the financial position also has to be considered.

No decision has yet been taken as to whether or not there will be any changes to the schedule for 2011/12. The decision will be made by officers in consultation with the cabinet member for visible and building services.

Clare Curtis should be aware of this as her husband, Coun Rob Curtis, was, of course, the cabinet member for visible and building services between 2006 and 2008.

We will continue to actively press for Meggitt Road and Winston Road to be included in the schedule for 2011/12 and will keep residents informed as to progress.

Coun Katherine Kemp and Marguerita Wright,
Dyfan ward, Barry,

Euphoria of last crossing patrol!

MY last day on road crossing patrol at Romilly passed by on a sea of euphoria, from judging the 'little-uns' Easter bonnets to being presented with an ornamental Japanese cherry tree and gardening vouchers from the children and staff.

Throughout the day, people showed their appreciation with kind words, cards and gifts, too many to mention, and the centre piece of the day was the banner, which is now adorning my wall at home.

I send my heartfelt thanks to those parents who made a cash contribution to my leaving gift and instead of buying me something I didn't want, I now have a whacking big token to spend on something I do want – and believe me, I am pondering on that one!

A huge piece of my heart goes to those wonderful, crazy mums who formed a human chain across the road, so I could do - 'The Walk' - my last journey across my piece of road in Park Crescent, which has been my second home for the last nine years or so; and even more thanks for the patience of the motorists.

As I have said before, it has been my privilege and pleasure to keep people safe and share in the lives of all those people who have crossed with me.

I wouldn't change one single happy moment.

So Romilly, it will not be the same, because, traffic lights don't smile at you or say good morning, or ask how you are.

They don't sing happy birthday, or tell you the weather forecast – but just remember to wait for the green man and you will stay safe and if you don't, I swear I will come back to haunt you!

Thanks Romilly, for the gifts, the love, the hugs, for being you and for making my last day, and all the days that went before, so special. I'll see you soon.

Joy Strangward
Barry

Barrivale results

LATEST results from Barrivale:

Tuesday, April 5: *First, Mick Green and Denis Mottram, 62.71 per cent; second, Celia Thomas and Huw Thomas, 56.46; third, Anne Johns and Eileen Hughes, 55.26; Mick and Denis also won on handicap.*

Tuesday, April 12: *First, Huw Thomas and Celia Thomas, 61 per cent; second, Denis Mottram and Noelle Bond, 54%; third, Mick Green and Mike Close, 52; Huw and Celia also won on handicap.*

New members are always welcome at Barrivale; for more information call 01446 733425. ***MB***

Explosive end for St Athan water tower:
– a case of now you see it, now you don't!

A crowd gathered at RAF St Athan on Sunday, April 17 to witness an explosive event – the demolition of a giant water tower.

The tower took just a couple of seconds to collapse to the ground, followed by a large cloud of smoke.

The explosive experts used 10kg of explosives which were placed strategically in 250 holes around the tower. It led to a perfect execution with no damage to nearby buildings – two were just 10 metres away from the tower.

As you can see from Glyn Evans' sequential record of the event, it was a case of 'now you see it, now you don't'!

Pictures by
GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.
Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk or www.ffotoimage.co.uk (telephone 01446 773225). Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

Just three seconds after the explosion... and smoke rises from the ruins.

Fourth outing of this horror franchise is certainly nothing to Scream about!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

WHAT'S your favourite scary movie" – was spoken at the start of 1996's *Scream*, it marked a watershed in the horror genre.

Taking a gentle poke at the conventions of the horror film, while similarly creating a whole new set of scares, the franchise delivered two sequels, the second living up to the first, while the third followed the traditional law of diminishing returns.

So it is all the more surprising that 11 years later, the fourth *Scream* movie hits cinemas.

Reuniting the original's director, Wes Craven, and writer, Kevin Williamson, 10 years have passed since the murders, and Sidney Prescott (Neve Campbell), returns to the town of Woodsboro to promote her new book.

However, Sidney's return soon sees a spate of murders that draw in cast members old and new (including Courtney Cox, David Arquette, Emma Roberts and Hayden Panettiere)...

As knowing as the original *Scream* was, its impact has diluted in the past decade with the horror genre falling into a grisly phase with the likes of *Hostel* and the *Saw* films.

So its reappearance was seemingly a statement of intent from Wes Craven and Kevin Williamson that no matter how much gore and shock value a film may have, it can't beat the slasher template for jumps and scares.

It is a statement that rings hollows based on the evidence here, as *Scream 4* is an all-too perfunctory retread of past glories, and though it seems in part it is the intention to parody itself, the end result just doesn't cut it (excuse the pun).

That both Craven and Williamson were involved is a testament to the fact that they felt this was ground worth revisiting, and while Williamson's script bristles with digs at the way horror films have gone over the past decade, and knowing winks at the way genre rules have changed as a result, it all too often feels like an update of the original, rather than a film in its own right.

Craven is well at home with post-modernism, having also helmed the return of Freddie Krueger from sequel-hell in *New Nightmare*, a film that similarly took digs at the genre that fed it. While he obviously directs with a relish for bloodletting, there are very few real jumps and scares, the murders feeling too built-up and lacking any punch.

The cast, like any slasher film, are there more for looks than acting performances, but the returning triumvirate of Neve Campbell, Courtney Cox and David Arquette all fit back into their roles with aplomb, albeit with 10 years of baggage.

Meanwhile, the likes of Emma Roberts, Hayden Panettiere, Eric Knudsen and Rory Culkin all make for solid bait for the ghost-face killer, whose menace can't disguise his WWE-style ability to absorb pain!.

However, the decent performances can't salvage a film that, while clever in deconstructing the world of the horror movie, doesn't make for a good scary movie.

Perhaps Kevin Williamson intended the film to be like this, but too much winking and not enough imaginative slashing makes for a dull horror film, something exacerbated by Wes Craven's inability to bring anything fresh to the table.

While not disgracing the franchise (that honour going to *Scream 3*), it is a rather limp return and *Scream 4* fails to leave you wanting more.

VERDICT – A poor outing all round, *Scream 4* might make some salient points about the status of the horror genre in today's Hollywood, but fails to scare up much in the way of jumps.

Kevin Williamson's script seems more concerned with point scoring, and Wes Craven's direction all too often cruises along, leaving the film to be one you wouldn't Scream about. *Average*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Scream*, *Halloween*, *I Know What You Did Last Summer.*

COWBRIDGE
Meet the people...
SPRING/EASTER Seasonal update

Shoppers have spring in their step as the sun shines on Cowbridge!

by JAYNE ISAAC

SPRING is definitely in the air in Cowbridge – and also in the step of the shoppers, who have been flocking to the town in the lovely sunshine.

The Easter weekend and next week's royal wedding have both been influencing what people are buying and many shops have an Easter theme, with lots of bunnies and chicks on display.

And the fashion and shoe shops are enjoying a bit of a boost, as people freshen up their wardrobes with this season's new styles and colours.

Awen Evans of High Society and Havana, who is also with the town's chamber of trade, said that the royal wedding was definitely having an impact.

"A number of guests going to the wedding have been in town looking for their outfits," she said. "And where better to come? We have some lovely shops selling fabulous clothes so people know that they have a good choice."

Awen pointed out that there were strict rules of etiquette for royal weddings and those who are attending have to be sure that their outfits have sleeves and respectable hemlines, with the ensemble topped off by a fabulous hat.

"What's striking this year is that strong colours are popular," she reported. "We are seeing lots of cerise, purple, green and teal as well as neutrals like camel, silver and platinum, which is a darker tone.

"The usual pastels like pink, pale blue and lemon are not much in evidence this year."

As for what the bride will wear, Awen and her colleagues have been asked by BBC Wales to speculate about what THAT dress could look like.

"They have recorded a piece which will be broadcast on the morning of the wedding and after the ceremony, they will be back to ask us what we thought of the dress," said Awen.

"I think that Kate will go for a simple, classical dress. She is very elegant and that is how she dresses.

"I think we could see a vintage look, with old lace being used as part of the dress."

Awen commented that vintage is a very popular trend at the moment not just for wedding dresses, but in general.

"We expect this dress to have a huge impact on the design of wedding dresses from now on. We know that many brides will be wanting to have the look."

...and vintage is something that Cowbridge caters for in spades! The Happy Days vintage and handmade market at the back of the Duke of Wellington has a number of stalls providing clothing, accessories, china, furniture, Welsh blankets, embroidered tablecloths, ornaments – you name it.

The market brings in people from all over the UK who enjoy its eclectic mix of items and also its homely atmosphere – promoted by the tea room serving home made cakes on vintage china like all our grannies used to have.

The market is the brainchild of Sarah Legg and Nicole Burnett, who own many of the stalls, but also rent out space to others.

Sarah stated that vintage was huge at the moment: "We had someone from Scotland in here the other day who had heard about us and there was also somebody from London. This boosts trade for everyone in Cowbridge, because once people have made the trip, they will have a good look around."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

Anthony Taylor of Gaskell and Walker solicitors.

Rachel Best and Amy Theophilus - Fun Foundations Nursery

Sam Edwards of The Shop/Gifts

Craig Lamont, manager of Shoecare

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COWBRIDGE
Meet the people...
SPRING/EASTER Seasonal update

The friendly team at Vale 4x4 are situated in North Road.

The Fich & Ramous team - Lance, Gethin, John, Charlotte, Lauren, Ffion and Claire.

Helen Hopkins of Cowbridge Physiotherapy, Acupuncture and Sports injury clinic

Jean Tait of La Mercerie

Amy Lunnon of Eye Candy Boutique

Alison and Huw of Pebble, with sons Sol and Oz

Few towns can offer such pleasant surroundings and individual choice

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

Sarah felt that the venture was going really well and a big attraction is the recycled clothes on the Sliced Bread stall, which Sophie Creed of Treoes restyles.

Sophie creates one-off items using various materials imaginatively to create totally unique pieces.

"It's a new twist on vintage," explained Sophie. "I rework clothes by adding in something here and something there. No two garments will ever be the same."

Sophie goes to car boot sales and charity shops to find the basic garments and also the materials she needs – which could range from old table cloths and curtains to sheets.

The centre is also the base for a successful knitting club each Monday afternoon, where knitters – and non knitters – are welcome to enjoy a cup of tea and a natter.

This is run by Sue Mayo, who has a wool stall in the market, where she sells hand dyed yarns and her own ceramic buttons, which she designs herself and has specially made.

Sue loves knitting and is always willing to give help and advice to people just learning the skill.

"I started knitting when I was a little girl because we had an old lady living nearby who used to knit for a living," she explained. "She started me off and used to give me bits of wool and other materials. I have knitted ever since."

She said that knitting was now back in a big way, with people getting together to knit all over the country.

The centre also offers plants, hanging baskets and planters and this is the domain of Cath Jones, who has given up her teaching job to turn her hobby into her livelihood.

She and her husband use their garden and an allotment to grow plants and Cath will be selling vegetable plants in pots shortly, as so many people find it difficult to grow from seed.

The plants make an attractive entrance into the centre and also give possible customers a chance to see what's on offer.

In fact, many of the shops have plants on sale at the moment and they make the town very attractive and colourful.

Recycling clothes and other items is also a big theme for the charity shops in the town. They are urging people to have a clear-out of their wardrobes and cupboards as part of a spring clean.

Theresa Seldon of the Red Cross shop in Penny Lane, reported that people were coming in looking for a new outfit for Easter, and new stock was arriving all the time.

"People need to keep looking as we have new stuff every day. We have a mix of new customers and our regulars."

The shop does get vintage clothes, but it does not have a separate section for this and puts everything onto the rails, so customers have to have a good look through.

"I know that this is very popular but we are too small to operate a separate section," she said.

Lois Boutique, owned by Sue Marshall, has moved into the former Sanders shoe shop, which gives it lots more room. The old boutique is now a shoe shop – which helps retain choice for shoe shoppers in town.

Ceri Staziker of St Nicholas, was in there looking for a pair of black sandals and was accompanied by her six-year-old daughter Gwennan and her mother Janice Webber, who lives in Cwmavon but is moving to the area shortly.

"I love shopping in Cowbridge," she remarked. "It's got a wonderful atmosphere and it's very friendly. I am fed up with towns which are nothing but pound shops and multiples. Here, the shops are nearly all locally owned."

Dawn Payne is one of the women who work in the shoe shop and she said that it was a big hit with customers, increasing the choice for people.

Barbara Davies works in the boutique and said that the new premises gave them a lot more room, meaning they could carry more stock and offer greater choice to customers.

"The customers have been very supportive of the move," she said. "We also have new people coming in all the time," she said and added that many people had already bought new fashions for the spring, though new stock is arriving all the time so there is still plenty of choice.

Sport now pays a big part in the life of the country – whatever the season. Football and rugby naturally have huge followings, while cricket and tennis are also very popular once summer arrives.

...And Cowbridge has a shop that caters for almost all sporting tastes: Jensen Sports Shop in Eastgate has been open seven years and is owned by Graham and Debbie Cartwright.

They carry a wide range of sports gear for all ages from young children through to adult.

Some of the brands stocked include Under Armour, Canterbury, Uglies, Speedo and Adidas.

The shop also caters for ballet and gymnastics and provides uniforms for pupils attending local schools.

The couple are able to offer considerable product knowledge to customers.

Graham was a professional footballer in his younger days, playing in the A team at Manchester United when he was 14, and then playing in the Northern premier league.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

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INTRODUCING OUR AWARD WINNING STYLIST...
Charlotte Button
Charlotte joined our team last September and has had a huge impact on the clients & team alike.
Her enthusiasm has inspired everyone on the team to showcase their work by entering competitions - so there could be more good news...
Charlotte won 2 prestigious awards last week - The NHF Welsh Newcomer, The World Skills competition with more to follow.
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COWBRIDGE
Meet the people...
SPRING/EASTER Seasonal update

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● Real Fires
● Real Welcome
● Families Welcome
This is a Traditional Friendly Pub with a large beer garden and a Great Family Atmosphere.
Tel: 01446 772252

ABOVE: Lucy Campbell and Josh Edwards, Funky Fish pedispa

LEFT: Jeff and Nikki Jones of Liquorice Laces.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

He is still a keen follower of all sports and having the shop keeps him up to speed with new developments in things such as boots and shoes, and also the latest refinements in sports kit.

Cowbridge has an impressive range of shops – including a well stocked book shop, a fantastic traditional ironmonger's in the form of Arthur John; lots of shops selling items for the home; good quality food shops including a proper butcher, delicatessen and greengrocer; shoe and handbag shops, jewellery and antique shops as well as the fashion shops for which it is now renowned.

In all, it is a very potent and alluring combination which many people find irresistible...and when the shopping ends, there are plenty of places offering refreshments and meals where the weary shopper can recharge their batteries before entering the fray again!

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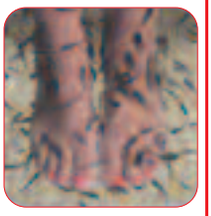

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Eager Beavers (and Cubs) see VC10 at first hand

The 1st St Athan Beaver and Cub Scouts on a recent visit to RAF St Athan

RECENTLY 1st St Athan Beaver and Cub Scouts visited the VC10 aircraft maintenance facility at the defence support group, RAF St Athan.

The VC10 is the RAF's primary in-flight refuelling aircraft, and can refuel up to three fighter aircraft at the same time, or one large aircraft (another VC10) at any one time.

There are three marks of VC10 currently in service: The Mk1 can be used for passenger and refuelling, carrying up to 138 passengers and fuel.

The Mk3 is a refuelling aircraft only, carrying up to 70 tons of fuel. The Mk4 can carry up to 30 passengers and fuel.

The VC10 still holds the record for the fastest sub-sonic Atlantic crossing.

"We were fortunate to see VC10 Mk4 Reg No ZD241, which was undergoing a minor service.

"This aircraft was built and entered service in 1968 for British Airways Reg No G-ASGM. It was sold to the RAF and converted to a tanker in 1985," said Joanne Gower, the Beaver Scout Leader.

"The Beavers and Cubs thoroughly enjoyed this visit and have now completed their air activities badges. We would like to thank Mr Bob McNicol and Mr Gerry Turnbull for arranging and allowing the Beaver and Cub Scouts to visit this interesting facility."

Anyone wishing to find out more about Beaver or Cubs Scouts in St Athan should telephone 01446 754208.

Joanne Gower, Beaver Scout Leader, 1st St Athan Scout Group

PACT MEETINGS

ILLTYD PACT, Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry, April 26, 7pm.
CADOC PACT, Palmerston Community and Learning Centre, Cadoc, Crescent, Barry, May 4, 7pm.
ST NICHOLAS & BONVILSTON community council meeting, May 3, Trehill Hall, St. Nicholas, 7.30pm.
TWYN-YR-ODYN, coffee and chat meeting, Horse & Jockey public house, May 4, at 11am.
ST AUGUSTINE'S PACT, in the back room of the Windsor Public House, April 21, 7pm.
LLANDOUGH PACT, Llandough Memorial Hall, May 9, 7pm.
STANWELL PACT, Elfed Avenue United Church, May 10, 7pm.
CORNERSWELL PACT, Penarth Leisure Centre, May 12, 7pm.

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Out and About with The GEM

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Good Friday 22nd April - FAMILY FUN DAY
Bouncy Castle - Face Painting - Easter Egg Hunt
Full Menu Available

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Booking Advisable - Live Band Outside - Starts 6pm
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Email fisherman3268@yahoo.co.uk

Llantwit service

Ebenezer URC, Llantwit Major will be holding its Easter Day service at 3pm, when the preacher will be the minister, Rev Irfon James. The service will be followed by light refreshments, including Easter eggs. All are welcome.

Gardening club

THE annual general meeting and seedling evening of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be held on Thursday, April 28 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Town Hall. Bring your own seed tray and get your compost free.

Royal date

LLANMAES social committee is hosting a royal wedding breakfast at Llanmaes Village Hall on Friday, April 29.

Doors open at 10am for a Bucks Fizz Reception at 10.30 am, followed by the big screen event at 11am. *Contact Debbie on 01446 792709 for more details.*

Flower club

THE Cowbridge and District Flower Arrangers Club is meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday, May 4 in the Llanblethian church hall, when Katherine Lee will give a demonstration entitled 'Recycle'.

Charity golf

A CHARITY golf day in aid of the new Llandough Hospital breast care unit will be held at Cottrell Park on Monday, June 6.

A stableford event (team of four) will be followed by hog roast and presentation – £160 per team with proceeds to the new breast cancer care unit.

The new breast centre at the hospital site opened in October 2010. This is the first time that patients with breast problems can be assessed in a state-of-the-art one-stop clinic under one roof.

Sponsors are being sought to raise money for the breast centre. The money raised will be used to build and equip the teaching and training centre, and buy state-of-the-art equipment.

For full details, contact the club secretary – andy.case62@yahoo.co.uk

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Walking festival scheduled for May

THE Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival runs from May 13–15.

There are 19 walks and fringe events over a long weekend for experienced walkers, leisure walkers, families and children.

The event is being organised by the 'countryside access and walking' charity Valeways with support from its volunteer walk leaders, plus the Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers, Porthkerry and Cosmeston Country Parks, Glamorgan Heritage Coast, and Llantwit Major Town Council.

Visit the website www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk *for more details.*

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See page 29 for more exciting bank holiday options in the area

Margam Park Events:

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Family Fun Day 'Celebrate the Circus'
Jimmy Juggle Circus Workshops, Zooted Shows, Carrot the Clown, Dr Bobs Balloon Magic and introducing Franco Brassetti traditional mime artist.
Adults £5.50 Children and OAP's £4.50 Family 2+3 £20.

Sunday 1st - Monday 2nd May
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A great day out for all the family.
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Saturday, 23rd April
CAZ (Female Vocalist)
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William & Kate
Royal Wedding guide

8-Page GEM Special

Friday 29th April, 2011

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Part of the service includes customers offering their own designs and to view the bed being made. In fact any visit to the showroom will be accompanied by the sound of the beds being built next door. So along for a visit and see for yourself what makes this local company such a unique experience.

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• MET ON MATCH IN 2008 AND NOW CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF THEIR DAUGHTER •

A day to

Once in a generation an event comes along that grips the nation, lifts us out of the daily grind and unites us in a rare moment of celebration and national pride.

The Coronation, the Queen's Silver Jubilee, the Millennium and the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana are moments in history that have made lasting memories for us all.

The Royal Wedding of Prince William and Catherine Elizabeth Middleton is going to be the biggest state occasion so far this century.

So where will you be on April 29?

A Bank Holiday has been declared, thousands of people will be flocking to London from across the country and thousands are expected to fly in from all over the world.

Parties are being planned in streets, clubs and halls all over the nation, as well as the Commonwealth, and about one billion people will be watching the wedding unfold on the TV and internet.

The happy couple themselves are said to be "on cloud nine" as they make final preparations for the big day.

The Goring Hotel where Bride Kate will spend her wedding eve

THE OCCASION

William and Kate have been "very much in charge of the arrangements", according to the prince's private secretary Jamie Lowther-Pinkerton – choosing a spring date and wanting the public to get behind the occasion.

Paul Hawtin ♥ Martina Toby

"Never forget how you first felt when you fell in love."

• MET ON MATCH IN 2009 AND STILL GOING STRONG •

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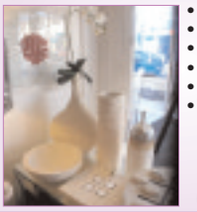

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"Be there for each other."

• MET ON MATCH IN 2010 AND ARE DUE TO MARRY LATER THIS YEAR •

remember...

They chose Westminster Abbey as the venue for its beauty but also due to the associations it has for William – it was the venue for the funeral of his mother, Diana, Princess of Wales.

Kate, 29, was said to have fallen in love with it on a private visit after their engagement in November last year.

She will spend her last night as a commoner at The Goring Hotel, in central London, with her family, including her brother James and sister and maid of honour, Philippa, known as Pippa.

With the sapphire and diamond engagement ring worn by Diana on her left hand, she will make her journey to the wedding in the Queen's Rolls-Royce Phantom VI limousine.

After leaving the hotel at around 10.30am, the princess-to-be will travel along The Mall, Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall and Parliament Square.

Surrounded by well-wishers and the lenses of the world's media, all eyes will be on her dress.

THE DRESS

It is thought palace officials took advice from Vogue editor Alexandra Shulman as Kate sought a designer for the all-important gown.

Shulman is believed to have recommended Sarah Burton, creative director for Alexander McQueen, who took over the British fashion label following McQueen's death last year.

But there has been speculation Diana-favourite Bruce Oldfield has the job, after Kate's sister and mother, Carole, visited his shop in February.

The final design will not be announced until the day, but the slim brunette is likely to wear a full length white, ivory or cream dress with sleeves, a train and a veil.

Kate will change at least once during the day and she is rumoured to have commissioned a hat from famous milliner Philip Treacy.

THE CEREMONY

Waiting nervously at the altar of the Abbey, with his brother Prince Harry by his side as best man, Prince William's attire is easier to predict and will doubtless attract far less attention.

The flight lieutenant, 28, is expected to follow royal tradition by marrying in military dress – his RAF uniform.

His bride will make her way down the aisle on the arm of her father, with her sister and a group of bridesmaids and page boys, at 11am.

Around 2,000 guests, from across the world, will look on as the pair are married by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams. The Dean of Westminster will conduct the service and the Bishop of London will give the address.

William and Kate have chosen the music and hymns, and the prince will place a ring made of 18 carat Welsh gold on his bride's finger. Gold from the Clogau St David's mine in north Wales has been traditional for royal rings since the Queen Mother chose it in 1923.

THE PROCESSION

Now husband and wife, the pair will emerge to waiting cameras before proceeding towards Buckingham Palace in an open top State Landau carriage.

The wedding party, including William's father, the Prince of Wales, and the Queen and Prince Philip, will appear on the balcony, where the pair will kiss for all the world to see.

THE RECEPTION

Once they bid goodbye to the crowds and make their way inside Buckingham Palace, the couple and their extended families pose for official photographs – likely to be taken by Hugo Burnand.

The festivities will continue with 600 guests at a lunchtime reception.

In the evening, 300 closer friends and family stay for a dinner given by Prince Charles, during which Prince Harry should make a speech as best man.

THE HAPPY EVER AFTER?

As the newly-weds begin their honeymoon, the scale of this occasion will begin to sink in. Kate will wake as a member of the Royal Family and a worldwide celebrity and William as a married man who can fulfil his duties with a companion by his side. Whatever their marriage holds, their wedding will create memories for us all.

> "Kate just fell in love with the Abbey on a visit last year"

William and Harry: Soldiers

WHICH SIDE WILL YOU BE WATCHING?

They may have had their request for 3D cameras rejected by the palace, but the Royal Wedding will still be covered in high definition by all the major broadcasters.

The BBC's coverage will be anchored by Huw Edwards.

David Dimbleby had for many years been the main presenter for state occasions, but has been pipped by the Ten O'Clock News presenter – who chaired the Beeb's coverage of the Pope's visit in 2010.

ITV is going for a more laid-back approach with This Morning star Philip Schofield at the helm, alongside News At Ten's Julie Etchingham. ITV News presenters Mark Austin, Alastair Stewart and Mary Nightingale will also feature.

The Sky News line-up should include Dermot Monaghan and Adam Boulton.

Amanda Holden, Piers Morgan and Ben Fogle have all won roles as commentators for US networks.

Carl Underwood Debbie Underwood

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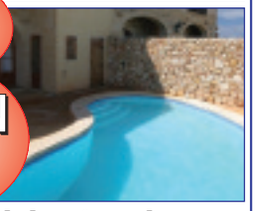

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• MET ON MATCH IN 2002, MARRIED FOR FOUR YEARS •

The guests

We can expect to see members of the public sitting alongside heads of state, such as our PM, at the event.

John Hayley, the landlord of Kate's favourite pub near her Berkshire family home is one of the 1,900 lucky enough to be invited.

He'll be joined by 80 people from charities and organisations supported by the prince.

Polo and university friends will show up, as will Sir Richard Branson's children Holly and Sam.

Some 90 royals, 60 governors-general and prime ministers from Commonwealth countries and 30 members of the military will attend.

And stars including David and Victoria Beckham have confirmed.

White Lion turns Pink for cancer charity!

AS readers will know, Tracy, Mark and staff at the White Lion, Ystradowen have a growing local reputation for charity campaigns – as shown by their efforts in 2010 for 'Help for Heroes'.

This year, they have raised the bar in support of their newly-adopted Breast Cancer charity; they have refurbished the Lion and included in the exercise a full-on PINK paint makeover to the exterior walls.

"By and large, our existing customers are growing to like the new image," Tracy Bell reported. ("It is certainly attracting a lot of attention and some new restaurant business for us! But our principal aim was to draw attention to the start of our Campaign for Breast Cancer.

"The new Breast Cancer care unit for Cardiff and the Vale is being built at Llandough hospital and will receive the profits of all ticket sales from a series of forthcoming events."

The White (and Pink) Lion's campaign begins on April 29 when the pub will host its own 'royal wedding' with customers being asked to arrive in the guise of guests invited to the 'other event' in London!

There will be raffles, spot prizes, and special offers on their range of beers. The pub is looking forward to welcoming the 'likes' of the Duke of Edinburgh, Harry, Andrew – and perhaps even Her Majesty! Elvis too will be making an appearance.

Watch out for the pub's vibrant pink convertible car driving around advertising this worthwhile event. (Artwork provided by Elite Signs in Bridgend).

Anyone who wishes to make a donation or donate a raffle prize, should contact the 'Pink' Lion directly (or stop the driver of the pink car!).

Tickets to include a barbecue, live music from Off the Cuff and lots of other events, are £10 from the pub (01446 775591) with all profits used to start this year's campaign.

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'Love is in the Heir' becomes royal tipple

A Barry brewery is likely to be making a name in royal circles with a new addition to its production line – 'Love is in the Heir' – which celebrates the nuptials of Prince William and Katherine Middleton.

The Vale of Glamorgan Brewery has made a name for itself in capturing the 'zeitgeist' or 'spirit of the age', and has concocted a traditional Welsh brew to give its customers the opportunity to toast the happy couple on April 29.

Last year, when the Ryder Cup was held at the Celtic Manor, the brewery brought out a 'Tiger Would' beer, poking fun at Tiger Wood's love of the ladies. The brewery's pump clip showed a busty blond holding out a golf ball.

This time, the brewery have a pump clip which shows Prince William hanging out of a helicopter, and holding a sparkling wedding ring between his fingers.

The brewery distributes throughout the Vale, Cardiff, Newport and Swansea.

Joint owner and brewer Dave Walbeoff said: "We are always looking for new ideas, and hope people see the humour in them!"

***ABOVE:** Prince William hangs out of a helicopter, a wedding ring in his hand, on the Vale of Glamorgan Brewery's latest pump clip.*

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• MET ON MATCH IN 2009 AND NOW PLANNING THEIR WEDDING •

This procession will be full of history and centuries of tradition

This journey is the highlight of any royal wedding and the route holds many memories. Here **Sarah O'Meara** points out landmarks...

Kate Middleton will be transported along a well-worn path to start her new life as a member of the Royal Family. After spending the night at The Goring (a favourite haunt of the late Queen Mother) she and father Michael will wait for her royal limousine.

Luckily, the pair won't have to factor in the traffic, as their 10-minute journey to Westminster Abbey will be cleared.

While the journey may be little more than a mile long, it is packed with centuries of history and tradition.

As future royal brides have done before her, Kate will be driven down the avenue of The Mall, along Horse Guards Parade, through Whitehall to arrive in Parliament Square and step out at Westminster Abbey.

For the first time since 1963, there will be no horse-drawn carriage arrival.

Prince William is set to leave St James's Palace with Prince Harry 10 minutes before his future bride, then head through Horse Guards Arch onto Whitehall – the same journey taken by the brothers as part of their mother's funeral procession.

But the real magic begins when William and Kate make the return journey as husband and wife. The couple will emerge to a truly awesome spectacle – including military bands and mounted regiments.

A procession of horse-drawn State Landau carriages will take them and the family back to Buckingham Palace.

They will pass the stooped statue of Winston Churchill in Parliament Square, the Palace of Westminster, and the entrance to Downing Street as they travel down Whitehall.

Horse Guards Parade will be familiar to William as the venue for the annual Trooping the Colour ceremony, celebrating the Queen's birthday. Then they will begin a triumphant parade down The Mall.

Back at the palace, as his parents did in 1981, Prince William will gather Princess Catherine in his arms on the balcony for their first public kiss.

ABBEY AT YOUR SERVICE

When they tie the knot Kate and William will be part of a story dating back to 1066 – when future monarchs began using the Abbey for coronations. It was in this building that William's uncle, Prince Andrew, Duke of York, was married to Sarah Ferguson in 1986 and his aunt Princess Anne was married to Captain Mark Phillips in 1973.

The Abbey is a Royal Peculiar, which is a church belonging to the monarch.

During the Second World War, Abbey treasures and medieval tombs were protected with around 60,000 sandbags.

At the west end of the Abbey's nave lies the grave of the Unknown Warrior, whose body was brought from France to be buried here on November 11, 1920.

ROUTE HIGHLIGHTS

The Goring: Eschewing overblown grandeur, Kate has opted to stay in the understated The Goring, a five-star hotel just outside the walls of Buckingham Palace on the night before her wedding.

The Mall: With Buckingham Palace in her rear-view mirror, Kate will travel along The Mall, passing near Clarence House, the official residence of the Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Cornwall, Prince William and Prince Harry and St James's Palace and park.

Whitehall: This road leading from Trafalgar Square to Parliament Square is at the heart of Government, with Downing Street leading off it.

Parliament Square: On entering the iconic square, Kate will pass by Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament.

Westminster Abbey: Almost 1,000 years ago, King Henry I was married to Matilda of Scotland, marking the start of a succession of royal weddings, and coronations in this gothic Abbey.

Fit for a prince

Prince William will indulge his sweet tooth on his wedding day by tucking into a chocolate biscuit cake, one of his childhood favourites.

William asked McVitie's to create this teatime treat as an alternative to the official fruit wedding cake by designer Fiona Cairns.

Good Housekeeping's Ultimate No-bake Chocolate Refrigerator Cake is the ideal version to make at home for some royal flavour at your street party.

Ingredients

1150g (5oz) each plain and milk chocolate, broken into pieces;
100g (3½oz) unsalted butter;
50g (2oz) golden syrup;
150g (5oz) sultanas;
150g (5oz) ready-to-eat prunes, chopped;
75g (3oz) pistachios;
200g (7oz) shortbread, roughly crushed.

Method

1 Line a 900g (2lb) loaf tin with two layers of cling film, leaving excess hanging over the sides.
2 Put the chocolates and butter into a large, microwave-safe bowl and heat for 30sec bursts until melted and smooth. Stir in the syrup, fruit and nuts. Next, carefully fold in the shortbread.
3 Spoon mixture into the prepared tin and freeze for 2hrs or chill in the fridge until set (about 5hrs).
4 Remove from the freezer or fridge 20min before cutting into small pieces – serves 15.

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• MET ON MATCH IN 2006 AND STILL GOING STRONG •

"There was something very special about Kate... our love just sort of blossomed"

William apparently fell for her naughty sense of humour, while Kate had a crush on him at school. **Kate Whiting** reveals the love story behind the wedding...

When a beaming Kate Middleton, wearing that new iconic blue Issa dress, posed for engagement photographs in November last year, history was set in motion.

The eyes of the world will be on the couple when they make their vows and the hope will be that this fairytale wedding has a happier outcome than that of William's parents.

In fact, Kate may be wearing Diana's sapphire and diamond engagement ring, but that's where the similarities end.

While Diana was only 20 when she said "I do" to Prince Charles, Kate will be 29 and a university graduate who is happy in her own skin.

When a friend said she was lucky to be with William, Kate reportedly quipped: "He's lucky to be with me."

Though technically a commoner, Kate comes from a wealthy middle-class family and has benefited from a stable, happy childhood.

She is the eldest child of Michael Middleton, a businessman, and his wife Carole, a former air hostess, who own a five-bedroom house in Bucklebury, near Newbury, Berkshire.

Her parents run a mail-order company called Party Pieces and she has two younger siblings, James and Pippa, her maid of honour. She went to the £15,000-a-year Marlborough College, where she played netball and hockey.

Having met William at the University of St Andrews, in Scotland, where they initially both studied the history of art, Kate is on an equal footing with her future husband and is five months his senior.

She caught William's eye in the first year when she strutted down the catwalk at a charity student fashion show in a see-through, lace dress.

They lived near each other in halls of residence then moved into a townhouse in Fife with friends in their second year, where, as William said, their love "just sort of blossomed".

"When I first met Kate, I knew there was something very special about her," he said following their engagement announcement. "But we ended up being friends for a while and that was a good foundation."

Kate remembered being very nervous when she first set eyes on the prince. "I think I went bright red and sort of scuttled off!" she recalled.

The first confirmation that William and Kate were an item came when they were pictured sitting together on a ski lift at the royals' favourite Swiss ski resort of Klosters in 2004.

Their relationship apparently flourished during romantic weekends alone on the Queen's Balmoral estate and during a trip to Kenya in the summer of 2005.

After university, Kate was determined to set up a children's clothes firm. She joined the fashion chain Jigsaw in 2006, but left the job a year later to work for Party Pieces.

Her acceptance into the Royal Family was evident when she graced William's graduation ceremony as

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• MET ON MATCH IN 2009 AND NOW PLANNING THEIR WEDDING •

on Army officer at Sandhurst. When she spotted him in his uniform, she apparently told him: "It's so, so sexy."

It hasn't been plain sailing, though. The pair split in 2007, which friends blamed on William's Army life.

"At the time I wasn't happy about it, but it made me stronger," Kate said.

The pair were rumoured to have rekindled their romance when she attended the Prince's memorial Concert for Diana in July 2007. Sitting apart in the audience, they were seen kissing at the after party.

While the world only learnt of their engagement last November, they had been planning it for "at least a year".

William said: "I wanted to concentrate on my flying and I couldn't have done this if I was still doing my training. We both just decided now was a really good time."

The prince proposed at a remote mountain lodge on holiday in Kenya.

William said: "I had done a little bit of planning to show my romantic side." This included carrying his mother's ring around in his rucksack.

The wedding may be less intimate than that, but will be just as romantic.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Married life for William and Kate will bring challenges, familiar territory and perhaps a new name for them both.

Royal men receive a title after their wedding, so William may be made a duke and Kate a duchess.

Despite their titles, they will slip back into their routine as a Forces couple after their honeymoon.

Flight Lieutenant Wales, as William is known, flies helicopters with the RAF Search and Rescue Force in Anglesey. While he rescues stricken seamen, Kate will be the dutiful wife at their remote North Wales home.

They could live in an apartment at a royal residence when in the capital, possibly at Kensington Palace or Buckingham Palace. And their first official overseas trip is being planned to Canada, from June 30 to July 8.

But the question is: "When will we hear the patter of tiny feet?"

William said: "We'll take it a step at a time. We'll sort of get over the marriage first and then maybe look at the kids. But obviously we want a family."

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• MARRIED FOR SIX YEARS SINCE MEETING ON MATCH IN 2002 •

They were worlds apart

William at Wetherby

Kate grew up in a middle-class family... but William was a young boy destined to be king

THE ROYAL

June 21, 1982: William Arthur Philip Louis is born at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, Central London.

January 1987: He becomes a day pupil at Wetherby School, in London.

September 1995: He begins his boarding-school life at Eton College.

August 1997: His mother Diana, Princess of Wales, dies in a car crash.

September 2001: William begins his art history degree at St Andrews University, he later switches to geography, graduating with a 2:1.

March 2002: He pays £200 to watch Kate model in a charity show.

December 2003: William and Kate become an item, it is believed.

THE ENGLISH ROSE

January 9, 1982: Catherine Elizabeth Middleton is born at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.

May 1984: Her family moves to Jordan, where she attends a nursery.

September 1986: She enrols at St Andrews prep school, in Berkshire.

Spring 1996: Kate begins life as a boarder at Marlborough College.

September 2001: She goes to St Andrews University, urging William to stay when he finds it hard to settle.

June 2003: Kate attends William's 21st birthday at Windsor Castle.

March 2004: She joins William on the ski slopes of Klosters, making their romance public.

Toddler Kate

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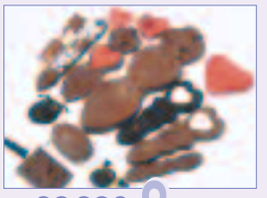

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Out and About with The GEM

CLASSIC CAR SHOW BACK AT PENCOED

THE South Wales Classic Car Club is inviting owners and enthusiasts to its 25th annual Classic Car Show on Sunday, May 8, at Pencoed College.

The show includes classic cars from the 1920s up to modern 'classics,' as well as commercials, coaches, farm machinery, military vehicles and even a selection of custom cars and hot rods. There will also be a silver band, funfair, trade stands and auto jumble.

All proceeds of the show, which is run entirely by volunteers from the club, go to charities such as the British Heart Foundation, the Air Ambulance and local children's charities.

Further details are available from the club's website at www.swccc.net.

VALEWAYS

ON Thursday, April 21, at 1.30pm, a walk around Wenvoe Castle with views of the Vale.

Starting from the Wenvoe Arms car park. *Telephone 07765 432676 for details.*

Easter dance!

THERE will be a chance to show off your skills this Easter at Vale leisure centres where dance-flavoured activities for children are on offer for as little as 50p.

The worldwide Latin dance fitness phenomenon of Zumba features in new junior classes at Barry Leisure Centre for ages four to 13, while interactive dance mat sessions will also be taking place.

It's all part of a two-week programme of activities for local youngsters, with Street Dance and cheerleading also on offer in Barry, Penarth, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major.

For full details, download an activity programme from www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/leisurecentres, pick up a copy from the leisure centres, or call 01446 403000.

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Bridgend Athletic grab local bragging rights after victory over Ravens

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 48)

Quick ball reached powerful wing Lloyd Pemberton who ran into space before looping a pass to Lloyd Evans.

The flanker outpaced Ravens wing Steve Cullen to race in from 30 metres for the home team's opening try.

Unfortunately he was able to take no further part in the game, and was replaced by the ever combative Lee Sims; Lewis converted.

As is often the case after scoring, the Athletic showed a chink of light to their opponents by knocking on at the kick-off.

The resulting scrum saw Ravens No 8 Ioan Cunningham drive forward and win a penalty which Griffiths sent between the sticks to make the half-time score **Athletic 22 Ravens 13.**

The Ravens returned to the fray with a renewed impetus, and with the sin-binned players restored they proved very effective at getting over the gain line.

The Athletic were living on scraps of possession and relying on long kicks out of defence to relieve the pressure, and when these kicks did not find touch, Luke Morgan and Ross Jones ran the ball back effectively and dangerously.

The Ravens continued to use their big ball carriers to good effect and the introduction of props Matthew Dwyer and Ken Dowding freshened up the scrum against the tiring Rod Apsee and Wayne Fooks, who had performed manfully all afternoon.

Even a relieving penalty proved dangerous when Lewis missed touch and Habberfield ran dangerously into the home territory.

He linked to his left and only a fine tackle by Rhys Jones saved the day, just metres from the Athletic line.

All this pressure was bound to tell and the dam broke when industrious Ravens hooker Rhys Hewitt drove over from short range for a try converted by Griffiths.

It wasn't long before the Ravens turned the screw and, once again, Habberfield seized his opportunity, diving over for a try that gave the Ravens the lead once more; again Griffiths converted.

The Ravens maintained their dominance and only flashes of good play kept the Ath in the game.

Bridgend forced another penalty and stretched the lead to eight points, but a mistake by Habberfield as he dropped the kick-off led to a scrum where the Ravens infringed, allowing Lewis to make the scores 30-25 to the Ravens.

The visitors had a scrum under the Athletic posts and the home supporters thought that the game was up.

Inexplicably, Dowding overplayed the drive and crashed onto his own side and wily centre Stuart Morris sent his penalty kick to halfway.

From the line-out, good work by Jonny Stoker allowed the Ath to drive forward, forcing Bridgend to concede another penalty, which Morris stroked to touch five metres out.

The ball reached captain Sean Williams, who had led by example all-day, but another moment of madness by Dowding saw him infringe and troop off for the remainder of the game.

The Athletic again opted for the line-out and another good take by Stoker set the ball up for a quick drive.

Back came the ball for Morris to break the line, and as the defence came across, Rhys Jones stormed up on his shoulder to carry three defenders over for the try to even the scores.

Lewis made no mistake with his conversion.

The last three minutes were played out with some tension in the air but neither side could do any more and from a lineout, Sean Williams' tap down was sent jubilantly to touch by Tom Davies for a memorable Bridgend Athletic victory.

Steve Lewis' 22 points took his season's tally to 186 from 13 league games, while Rhys Jones' crucial match-winning try was his first of the season.

With three matches left, the Athletic could still reach second or third in the division, but they will need to be on their mettle.

This Saturday, Whitland are the visitors; Bonymaen come to Newbridge Fields on Wednesday, April 27, and the Athletic visit Waunarlwydd on April 30 to close their league programme.

MARK DAVIES

Magnificent Mustoe leads the charge with Matthew Hillman, Tom Penry-Ellis and Sean Williams in close attendance.

College hails success of past pupils

THERE was delight at Bridgend College when Bridgend Ravens took the Division One title, particularly as the Bridgend College Rugby Academy has strong connections to the Ravens' team.

A college spokeswoman said: "The college is extremely proud of is its continued contribution to local, regional and national rugby. The college provides seven players to the current Bridgend Ravens team, as well as former players Matthew Morgan, Rhys Webb, Gareth Owen and Scott Baldwin of the Ospreys."

Ravens head coach, Steve Tandy, said: "It is really important that Bridgend gives its young aspiring rugby players a clear pathway for each player to fulfil his potential. Within that framework there needs to be good quality coaching, facilities and enjoyment, as well as first class education."

The head of Ospreys academies, Andrew Millward, added: "The hard work we are doing at under-18 level as a region is being mirrored at Bridgend College, and the fact that almost half of the current Ravens team is made up of recent past pupils is proof of that."

From humble beginnings, coach Gareth Nicholas has built the college rugby academy into one of the most successful and productive in the UK. The team has been national 15s and sevens champions, twice runners-up in the UK championships, and is now ranked fourth in Great Britain. The team also regularly plays host to teams from New Zealand and takes part in annual overseas tours.

For more information on the college rugby academy, contact Gareth Nicholas on 01656 302600.

Bryncethin in exciting draw with Briton Ferry

Under-8s: Briton Ferry 4, Bryncethin 4

THE home side scored the first try of the game and held the advantage until half time, where the score was 4–2 to Briton Ferry.

The second half got under way with Bryncethin looking for more tries and they did not have to wait long before they scored in the corner.

Bryncethin kept on pressing and the home side showed a solid defence and made it tough going for the visitors.

As the game was nearing its conclusion, the youngsters of Bryncethin were able to break through the Briton Ferry defence to level the score.

Both sides pushed forward looking for the win but they were unable to score again, the final score being a well deserved 4–4.

Try scorers: Shaun Batchelor, Miles Blakeman, Mike Gillette and Ifan Hunnam.

Man of the match: Shaun Batchelor for his outstanding performance and well-taken try.

Squad: Jacob Rimron (captain), Shaun Batchelor, Miles Blakeman, Rhys Cawley, Ben Daniel, Mike Gillette, Ifan Hunnam, Jac Jervis, Will Laverick, Hollie Morgan, Cory Ryall, Jake Whitefield and Rhys Williams.

Under-10s: Briton Ferry 25, Bryncethin 10

THE under-10s travelled to Briton Ferry and conceded early.

The home team were outstanding and try as they might, nothing went right in the first half and Briton Ferry were deservedly 15–0 up at the interval.

The second half brought a much improved performance and all the boys contributed to the improved showing.

Although the hosts scored two tries in the second half, they were pushed all the way with tries from Josh Napper and, scoring his first for Bryncethin, Joshua Thomas.

Squad: Rhys Davies (captain), Aaron Thomas, Luke Board, Keiran Dixon, Josh Napper, Jack Thomas, Morgan Stevens, Morgan Rimron, Daniel Osarigie, Ethan Hopkins, Lewis Francis, Joshua Thomas, Finlay Mullens and Tobias Hunt.

NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS FROM PENCOED COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Pupils show skills and achievements at prize giving evening

Members of the Eco Group tree planting with Neil Lyddon, countryside officer, Pencoed Town Council.

PENCOED Comprehensive School's annual prize evening ceremony saw a celebration of pupils' academic, musical and sporting achievements.

Guest speaker, Mr Phil Williams of Plan-It ECO, spoke of his travels to Central America and the 'family' he has there and the need for us all to become more actively involved in developing a more responsible and sustainable lifestyle at home and/or in the workplace.

The enthusiasm and talent of the pupils displayed during The Entertainers in February was carried forward to the Easter concert held on the last week of term.

Parents and guests enjoyed a wonderful concert, with items ranging from classical to modern.

They were entertained by vocal, instrumental and dance items, with some performing their own compositions.

All pupils enjoyed the house assemblies held on the last day of term. Again, many prizes (the majority of them chocolate!) were awarded to pupils for their day-to-day achievements in school.

During the assemblies, Sion Durham, former head boy at the school, also returned to receive a High Sheriff of Mid-Glamorgan merit certificate from Coun Colin Hewlett, Mayor of Pencoed. Thank you to Coun Hewlett for his contribution to the event.

Rachel Starrit, year-11, also received a High Sheriff Award recently and a cheque for £150 at Sony Bridgend for her charity work. Congratulations also to Abigail Richards, year 11, who has just been elected as Bridgend Youth Mayor.

Well done also to our 6th formers who arranged various charity fund raising activities over the term. These included raising £186.88 for Comic Relief, £141.55 for the MS Society, £76.21 for Ty Hafan and £17.40 for Beat Bullying.

Congratulations also go to all those who take part in the regular rugby, football, hockey and netball matches. Special congratulations go to the members of the year-7 rugby league squad who enjoyed particular success towards the end of term when they became the Welsh Rugby League champions.

During the last week of term members of the school's 'PUPIL' group hosted a special tea with home-made cakes and organised games for members of the Senior Citizens Lunchtime Club.

This was followed by an Easter egg trail with chocolate eggs for all those who could find them.

Senior citizens' lunches resume on Thursday May 5. Please feel welcome to come along and join the club for lunch at 12pm every Tuesday and Thursday during term time.

ABOVE: Megan Mattravers and Gareth Rodgers – joint winners of The Lewis Morgan Trophy for their outstanding contribution to school life.

Linking in to the ECO theme of our guest speaker during the prize evening, Pencoed Comprehensive's geography department has been busy over the last few months promoting sustainable education. In February, year-9 pupils had the opportunity to visit the Field Study Centre in Margam Park for three days where they learnt about the different local environments and the biodiversity to be found there.

They visited Southerndown coastal environment, Kenfig sand dune environment and the forest and lake environment at Margam Park.

Pupils set humane traps and learnt about the small creatures that live in the forest and spent an enjoyable morning 'pond dipping' and discovered the wealth of 'mini beasts' in the lake.

Pupils were also able to see sustainability in action as the Discovery Centre has a rainwater harvesting system and solar panels, as well as operating a comprehensive recycle, reduce and reuse policy.

This proved to be a valuable opportunity for pupils in raising awareness of the importance of sustainable living and of the fragile ecosystems that need protecting.

The school's ECO Club continued the sustainable theme for the term by spending an afternoon planting the trees won in a recent Sainsbury's competition, carried out under the expert guidance of Mr Neil Lyddon, Pencoed Town Council's Countryside Officer.

Pupils also monitored the progress of the trees planted last year and added 30 more to the school grounds.

The ECO club has plans to develop this area further to encourage more wildlife and plant species to improve the appearance and biodiversity of the school grounds, and will be devoting time each term to the maintenance of the developing forest area.

We are now on Twitter - follow us @gem_news

Police take foot off the gas – and nearly pay the price!

ABOVE: Calum Rogers scores a try.

Pictures by GARETH DAVIES

SOUTH WALES POLICE 31
BANWEN 21

SOUTH Wales Police welcomed Banwen to Waterton Cross and stung their visitors to secure a bonus point within 35 minutes – the first try coming from in-form lock Calum Rogers, with Ryan Miles adding the extras.

Jason Davies goes for the Banwen line.

A Banwen loose pass was intercepted by wing Craig Chalmers and there was no-one who was going to catch him; Miles added the extra two to increase the lead.

Solid defence from Rob Evans, Simon Giboney, and Cory Evans kept Banwen at bay, while the Police backs looked really dangerous with ball in hand, the centre partnership of Lee Roderick and Aled Roberts causing the visitors constant problems.

Rogers extended the Police lead and Miles again added the conversion. The Police knew they had the bonus point in their sights and pushed for the fourth try.

A solid tackle from Aled Roberts

The ball went through several phases of play with the back row of Jordan Jones, Jason Davies and Tyler Williams involved, and the ball finally ended up in the hands of Chalmers, who went over in the corner for his brace; the kick was unsuccessful but the bonus point was in the bag.

The second half proved a different game and the Police seemed to take their foot off the gas and the visitors piled on the pressure to score 21 points.

The visitors decided to go for the win and attacked from all areas of the field, but the Police kept them under pressure and a long pass saw scrum-half Mathew Pound take the interception to dive over in the corner, securing the game for the Police and also denying Banwen a losing bonus point.

This was a solid team Police performance, and Tyler Williams, making his senior debut, put in a good solid performance.

BS

Porthcawl under-16s are tournament kings!

Porthcawl under-16s.

PORTHCAWL knew that the annual Llanelli Wanderers festival of rugby 15-a-side tournament would be very competitive, with a number of strong sides entered.

When the pool draws were announced, it was evident that Porthcawl had been put in the harder of the two pools, as they had touring side Ampthill, who are currently in Division One of the Saracens Herts Middlesex League, Llandeilo and Felinfoel – last year's winners.

In the other pool were Carmarthen Athletic, a Burryport/Kidwelly combined side and Llanelli Wanderers.

Porthcawl v Ampthill

THE first pool match saw the young seaweeds take on the big touring side.

Both sides made mistakes but right at the death Ben Smith powered his way to the line to score, only for the referee to say he could not award it as he was unsighted.

Score 0–0.

Porthcawl v Llandeilo

THE second pool match saw the Dyfed outfit score first.

Jake Williams replied and early in the second half, Jack Taylor scored after some excellent forward play and they then kept possession well to win the game.

Score 10–5.

Porthcawl v Felinfoel

AS was expected, the match started fiercely, and a try by Evan Williams before half-time was well deserved, with the young Seaweeds never looking like losing this match.

Score 5–0.

Semi final: Porthcawl v Burry Port/Kidwelly

AMPTHILL were winners of the group and Porthcawl second, which meant the young Seaweeds had to play the winners of the other group – a combined Burryport and Kidwelly side.

Porthcawl were dominant and before half-time, Jack Taylor scored a great try, finishing off a period of superb 15-man rugby.

Porthcawl controlled the rest of the game to get into the final.

Score 5–0.

Final: Porthcawl v Ampthill

THE game didn't follow the same pattern as their first encounter, as Porthcawl dominated the initial exchanges.

Josh White, playing for Wales under-16s against Italy under-17s in Wrexham.

PHIL REES PHOTOGRAPHY, WREXHAM

Playing in their own half, Ampthill tried to run the ball out and alert Jake Williams judged his run perfectly to intercept and race in from 30 metres.

In the second half, captain Jack Williams scored following fantastic play, the hooker racing away to score.

This was a great day for the team, who had started slowly but improved as the competition went on and were the worthy winners of the tournament.

Score 10–0.

WELL DONE JOSH!

It capped a fantastic weekend for the under-16s as on the Saturday, their outside-half Josh White scored 17 points for Wales under-16s to help them beat Italy under-17s by 34-10.

PB

Pencoed RFC's mini tournament a success

PENCOED rugby club recently held a successful mini rugby tournament which saw 31 teams of children, aged 7-11 come together to battle it out on the rugby pitch.

The event, held at the main rugby ground and on the 'cabbage patch' (thanks Pencoed College), was attended by more than 2,000 people.

Llandaff under-7s, Maesteg Welsh under-8s, Pencoed under-9s, Llanishen under-10s, and Pontypridd under-11s, were the winners of the Cup competition trophies, and every one of the 500 players received a club medal.

Trophies and medals were supplied by the generous donations of sponsors, Valley Industrial Services, BSS (Pipeline & Heating Solutions) and South Wales Service Centre in Newport.

Castell Howell and Peters Savoury Products sponsored the catering for a day.

The event went off with great success thanks to the army of many volunteers who manned the stalls, the barbecue, the marshalls, the litter pickers, car park attendants, programme sellers, and the youngsters who were in the cabin selling snacks and teas and coffees. Many thanks to those who baked cakes for us to sell.

Our new addition this year, the 'Scrum V' pass the ball stall was very popular.

Michael Bosley, this year's tournament director, said: "What a great day. Tournaments of this nature stay in the memories of our children, parents and supporters for years to come, and are at the heart of why we continue to play, watch and enjoy the game of rugby."

Pencoed RFC mini section are always on the lookout for new players. New registrations start again in August for the 2011/2012 season. Look at our website if you are interested in joining next season.

CB

VOLUNTEERS HELP GIVE CRICKET CLUB A NEW LOOK

THE Natwest senior bank manager for Glamorgan grabbed a paintbrush at Porthcawl Cricket Club, to take part in NatWest CricketForce, which is aimed at helping local cricket clubs across the country.

Marlene Harries, who is based at the bank's branch in Bridgend, joined colleagues, along with other local volunteers to spruce up the club facilities ahead of the new season. Marlene is pictured centre holding paint roller, with colleagues from NatWest and representatives of Porthcawl Cricket Club.

Bryncethin RFC under-9s notch up their first win

AS their first season comes to a close, Bryncethin under-9s travelled to Pontyclun to take part in their first tournament.

Bryncethin found themselves up against some very challenging teams. However, they showed great maturity and held their heads high throughout.

The tired youngsters had their final game against Llanharan, with some outstanding tackling displayed by Tom Painter, supported by Kathryn Pritchard, Geraint Richards, Kane Walters and Dafydd Baker. We also saw a fantastic try-saving tackle from Dylan Hill.

Bryncethin's confidence grew after some great tries from Mason Jones, Liam Svenson, and Lloyd Costigan, and during the second half, Bryncethin saw some excellent foot work from a talented Billy Sinclair.

Bryncethin scored a further four tries and finally took their first ever victory in a 7-4 win.

What a fantastic end to a perfect day. Well done!

Team: Kathryn Pritchard; Mason Jones; Tom Painter; Lloyd Costigan; Dafydd Baker; Billy Sinclair; Geraint Richards; Kane Walters; Dylan Hill; Liam Svenson.

RS

Pencoed RFC Phoenix are hot in Spain

La Vila RC Women 0
Pencoed Phoenix 43

PENCOED RFC Phoenix enjoyed a successful tour to Benidorm with a comprehensive 43–0 win over hosts La Vila Rugby Club.

Sammy Jo Humphrey led the try scorers with a hat trick, and further tries came from Jo Poupon, Amy Stevens, Sarah Hughes, and Natalie O'Shea; Hughes added four conversions.

The squad thoroughly enjoyed the experience of playing at the Nuevo Stadium, Villajoyoso, home of the Benidorm sevens.

On Easter Sunday, Phoenix return to domestic competition with a home plate match against Tylorstown, kick-off 2.30pm.

Under-15 girls rugby development sessions are currently ongoing at the club every Wednesday from 5–6pm; prospective players of any experience welcome.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003
To whom it may concern:
I, **Philip Christian Edwards**, do hereby give notice that I have applied to the Licensing Authority at Vale of Glamorgan Council for the grant of our Premises Licence at **Porthkerry Leisure Park, Porthkerry, Rhoose CF62 3ZP** and known as: **The Bulwarks.**
The application is for the sale and supply of alcohol, provision of late night food, and the provision of entertainment.
Any person wishing to make representations to this application may do so by writing to the Licensing Team, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU no later than 28 days after the date of this notice (as below). Representations received after this date will not be considered.
A copy of this application can be viewed at the Licensing Authority's address during normal office hours.
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.
Dated: April 18th, 2011

GEM Family Notices

Family Notices

Rhodri Phillips
of High Street, Cowbridge.
Died Thursday April 14, age 69.
Funeral at Coychurch Crematorium on Thursday April 28 at 12pm.

BELL
Marilyn
Peacefully on April 16 at Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre, Penarth, Marilyn of Llantwit Major.
Much-loved wife of Scott (former NFU secretary), devoted Mum to David and Catherine, greatly loved by all her family and friends.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday April 28, service and cremation 10.30am at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.
No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o Mrs C James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

JONES
William Pritchard
Suddenly but peacefully on April 14 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Bill of Llantwit Major.
Beloved husband of Margaret, dearly loved father of Emma and son-in-law Anthony, devoted Grandpa of Ewan. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon.
Funeral Wednesday April 27, service 1pm at St Illtuds Church followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.15pm.
No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Ty Hafan Children's Hospice Wales c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

WHEATLEY
Mary
Peacefully with her family on April 14, Mary, much loved wife of Alan, loving mother of Rhiannon and Angharad, devoted Grandma of Joseph, mother-in-law of Andrew and Wijnand, daughter of the late Roma and Ieuan, sister-in-law to Rosslyn. Will be sadly missed by all family and friends.
Funeral Service at St John the Baptist Church, Llanblethian on Wednesday April 27 at 2pm followed by interment. Flowers may be sent to Thomas Brothers, Greengate, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major CF32 0SB.

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Kara Healan
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April 26, 2011

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Barry Athletic start centenary season with St Fagans fixture

BARRY Athletic Bowls Club raise the curtain on their centenary year this Saturday with a match against St Fagans – the Athletic's first opponents 100 years ago.

Following a well attended "first wood" of the season at Barry Island last Saturday, members are ready to mark their 2011 milestone in style.

Playing a significant role in proceedings this summer will be a trio of specially elected "centenary match captains," in recognition of their achievements in the sport worldwide over many decades.

The three are Gareth Humphreys MBE, Russell Evans and Jim Morgan, and they will share the captaincy in six special matches during a busy season.

A browse through Athletic records reveals that the three – each one a magnificent bowler in their glory days – have brought a plethora of titles to the club at Commonwealth, British, Welsh and county levels.

Russell Evans is known as far afield as New Zealand, Canada and South Africa, not to mention the home countries, as the perfect 'gentleman of bowls' on and off the green, and is Barry Athletic's longest serving member, having joined the club in 1951.

His list of bowling honours would stretch the entire length of any green, such is his remarkable playing record.

Jim Morgan struck gold at the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh in 1986 in the fours, to add to the bronze medal he won in the pairs at Edmonton, Canada, eight years earlier.

Jim, a strict disciplinarian on the green and a respected member of the sadly fading old school of bowlers, joined the Athletic in 1961.

He was a Welsh international from 1972 to 1988, and, in recent years, made a major contribution to the Welsh Indoor Bowls Association as a selector, team manager and executive member.

Jim also played a leading role in the Welsh Bowls Umpires Association for almost thirty years.

Gareth Humphreys, a doyen of Welsh bowls for many decades and an international from 1963 to 1978, represented Wales at the 1974 Commonwealth Games in New Zealand and went on to become team manager of the national bowls squad.

Gareth has made an enormous contribution to his sport as a player, administrator and coaching advisor and two years ago was awarded an MBE for services to Welsh bowls.

He has been honoured by many organisations and has received the Welsh Sports Council and the Commonwealth Games Council for Wales scrolls of honour, both well deserved.

Gareth has also compiled and edited a comprehensive centenary brochure.

Barry Athletic, the only Welsh private greens club in the town, formed a centenary committee in 2008 with former Wales tourist chief executive Don Evans named as chairman.

The club also creates a unique record this season by appointing a brother and sister as 2011 team captains.

Robert and Bethan Horgan, both Welsh internationals, will lead the club on the domestic front.

Sprightly octogenarian club chairman, Alf Pidduck, believes the future of his club is bright judging by new youngsters showing exciting form at local and county level.

Barry Athletic are also fortunate in having Garry Gane as a supplier of vital funds with his successful bonus-ball scheme.

Centenary celebrations will conclude with a dinner at the Masonic Hall, Barry, in September.

CP

Sunday service

FRIENDS of the mediaeval listed Church of St Lawrence at Lavernock Point are holding an Easter Sunday service at 3pm on April 24, led by the Friends' honorary chaplain, the Rev Margaret Stark.

The organist will be Miss Anne Thomas. All welcome.

Refreshments can be obtained at the Marconi Club and Leisure Park. For enquiries, telephone 029 2070 7776.

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Bradley's Ystradowen 'win double' as point-to-point gears up for Bonvilston Grand National

THE Welsh Point-To-Point Grand National over three-and-a-half miles will be run at the Pentyrch Hunt Steeplechases at Redlands Park, Bonvilston, on Saturday.

First held back in 1983, when it was won by Cowbridge's John Llewellyn aboard Donald Dix's *Mr Moneybags*, the race has produced many exciting finishes and the following year, 1984, *Loch Raven* dead-heated with *Wine Talk*.

There was another dead-heat in 1989 when *Katesville* dead-heated with the previous year's winner *Knock On The Head*, ridden by local rider Paul Hamer. Ian Brice, who lives within walking distance of the course, won it with *High Guardian* in 1998 and local rider Paul Sheard pulled off one of the biggest shocks in the history of the race when he scored on *Its Only Me* in 2006 when the race was shortened from four miles to three-and-a-half miles.

Perhaps the most famous rider to have won it is this year's Gold Cup winning rider Sam Waley-Cohen, who won it a record three times on the French-bred *Down* in 2002, 2003 and 2004.

Last year, young Joseph Williams was successful on *Galtee View*, a former inmate of Llancarfan's Evan Williams's yard and the 13-year-old will be out to repeat last year's performance but could find things a lot harder this time.

The ladies' open is an AGA qualifier and the prolific *Chesnut Annie* and *Lady Myfanwy* are both entered.

Racing gets under way with the first of the seven races at 2pm with the members' race and Rae Jones's *Up There* should get backers off to a good start.

Meanwhile, Bradley Gibbs (16), who rides out for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, had plenty to smile about at the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt Steeplechases at Ystradowen.

Bradley not only rode his first winner, but he also rode his first double! He began the day by riding his father David's *Cinaman* to victory over the pace-making *Little Miss Monty* in the Members' race and in the last race of the day – the Aged Horses Maiden – he was successful on Mrs Mary Davies's *Glencaum*, an eight-year-old bay mare trained by Mrs Davies's husband John who was celebrating his birthday.

Paul Miles and his wife Myfanwy landed both the Men's and Ladies' Open races. *Findlay's Find*, a five-year-old chestnut gelding, "bred to win a Derby" under Nick Williams according to Myfanwy, had a length-and-half to spare over *Little Shilling*, ridden by Tom David in the John Lovell Memorial Men's Open Race, and around 40 minutes later, their prolific mare *Lady Myfanwy*, ridden by Claire Hart, made one of her rare appearances at a Welsh meeting and came home a comfortable three lengths clear of *Micks Prospect*, ridden by Lucy Pearce.

In 'the restricted', the grey *Sherfield Don*, a 10-1 chance, owned by Neil Edwards and David Spear of Bargoed, made every post a winning one under Johnny England to win by a length from *Diamondaire* ridden by Tom David.

Not the easiest of horses to train, 10-year-old *Sherfield Don* cost his owners just £1,100 at the Ascot Sales a couple of years ago. Johnny England, who is attached to Evan Williams's Llancarfan yard, had celebrated his 20th birthday the day before.

David Brace's *Ask The Thatcher*, ridden by Tom David, took the 'intermediate' by 10 lengths from *Floridahal*, ridden by Nick Williams, after leading his three rivals a merry gallop throughout. A winner over the course three weeks earlier, *Ask The Thatcher* was two seconds slower than winning last time.

Bridgend builder Roger Willcox won the Young Horse Maiden with his ex-Irish point-to-pointer *Dunshane*, a five-year-old bay gelding trained by his son John. *Dunshane*, ridden by Josh Harris, was in a prominent position throughout and was left well clear when the chasing *Millys Delight*, who never looked like catching him, fell five fences from the finish.

Dunshane won by five lengths from the favourite *The Last Bullit* who came from a long way behind.

Rachel Leyshon (16), a former leading pony-racing competitor from the Vale of Glamorgan, notched up her first win at the Old Surrey & Burston meeting in Kent when she won the ladies' open race on her mother Dianne's *Shake The Bottle*, and Pyle's Sally Randell trained the winner of the classic Lady Dudley Cup at the Worcestershire Point-To-Point when her *Surenaga*, ridden by Ben Poste, easily beat 25-1 outsider *Cedrus Libani*.

You can email your news/views to Brian Lee at leebrian@btinternet.com or phone him on 02920736438.

BRIAN LEE

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
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Woodside Cottage, Fonmon (Near Rhoose)

In the sleepy hamlet of Fonmon, and from the front facing windows, a beautiful aspect overlooking the well known Duck Pond, this sympathetically extended, detached thatched cottage is offered to the market. The sellers are most reluctant to sell, but it is hence a unique opportunity for a professional couple or indeed family to come in and enjoy the tranquility of this semi rural location.

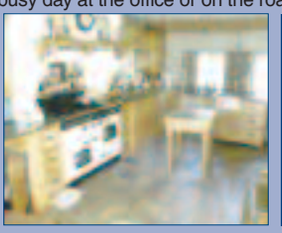
The accommodation is arranged over 2 storeys and to the ground floor comprises a superb main 20' sitting room with Inglenook style fireplace, a 20' kitchen/dining room with Range and doors to the rear garden, a lobby area and finally a separate rear facing lounge, also with door to the rear garden. To the first floor there are 3 genuine double bedrooms, plus a period style bathroom with claw foot roll-top bath - ideal for relaxation after a busy day at the office or on the road.

Outside there is a front garden, lawned rear garden and separate courtyard, plus there is a driveway for 2 vehicles to the rear.

The property has double glazing, oil heating and comes with an abundance of period features such as stone walls, beamed ceilings, oak/pine doors and encompassing stone walled boundary.

For those uncertain of the area the M4 at Junction 34 is just 20 minutes away and the cottage stands within the proverbial stones' throw of the stunning Fonmon Castle. The usual village amenities such as a convenience store, grocers, hairdresser and coffee shop are within a few minutes drive to the village of Rhoose, where there is also a reliable rail link to Cardiff.

If there are any questions please contact Andrew Fenton on 07847 888750 or 01446 711900



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Young rugby talent in the Vale is on show at Peterston-super-Ely TAG rugby festival

A TAG rugby festival for schools in the Vale was held just before the end of term, hosted by Peterston-super-Ely. A total of 19 teams took part, with more than 200 boys and girls demonstrating their running and passing skills in a well organised and successful event.

ABOVE: The hosts from Peterston-super-Ely.

Pictures by
IAN DIXON

ABOVE: The team from Saint Nicholas Primary

ABOVE: Wick and Marcross Primary.

ABOVE: The team from Sully Primary.

Barry Island Primary are on the attack.

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Success on both sides of the water!

LLANGEINOR HUNT PONY CLUB NEWS ROUND-UP

2011 STARTED with success in mounted games with Tom Lucas qualifying for the Welsh team to compete at the Royal Windsor Horse Show in May.

Our tetrathletes have carried on winning on both sides of the Bristol Channel; March saw the culmination of the series of three triathlons (running, shooting and swimming at each competition) held in Monmouth.

Morgan Thompson, Aaron Giboney, Stephanie Brownbill, came fifth in their tadpole team with Stephanie winning best shoot/

The mini girls team, Molly-Anne Rees, Libby Jervis, Seren Allin and Mali Howell, came a well deserved first, helped along by Seren's best swim and best run of the 50-strong competitors in their age group of boys and girls.

Joel Hill, Roxy David-Smith and Tillymae Mullins all achieved their personal best scores.

Sophia Harpin, Joanna Wilkins, Alice Tudor all did well in their classes, with Georgia Kemeys coming fifth overall and team second, and Jack Wilkins fourth overall in the senior classes.

It was then off to Pembrey in glorious sunshine for the first tetrathlon of the year when the riding phase is brought in.

Once again, the mini team of Molly-Anne Rees, Libby Jervis, Seren Allin and Mali Howell showed their riding skills over the cross-country course, beating stiff competition from riders from Pembroke, Monmouth, Carmarthen, Pentyrch, Curre and Llangibby.

Jack Wilkins came first in the senior boys class, and a good day was had by William Jervis, Alice Tudor, Ellie and Joel Hill.

Tom Lucas qualified for the Welsh team to compete at the Royal Windsor Horse Show.

Stephanie Brownbill

Mali and Seren at Pembrey

Across the channel, Stephanie Brownbill was competing at the Weston Harriers triathlon.

She achieved best shoot with a score of 920 (for which she got a special mention at the awards for the best shoot of the event), and she managed a personal best swim of 105 metres, coming 10th in the run.

Her team came third and she came second as an individual (just missing out on first place by 32 points).

Marion Elliott, district commissioner for Llangeinor Hunt Pony Club said: "We are thrilled with the success of the club so early in the year, and we were particularly pleased when five members Camille Wilson-Jenkins, Katie Davies, Imogen Rees, Shauna Evans, Bronwyn Wictome, passed their C test, held at Talygarn Equestrian Centre, with flying colours.

"Our members are busy practicing for the area horse and pony care competition to be held at Pontcanna, Cardiff, and team jumping locally, also for the Prince Philip Cup mounted games area competition which is being held this year in Llandrindod Wells on May 8.

"Our next big event is the Llangeinor Hunt Point to Point, held at Laleston on May 14.

"We have strong connections with Llangeinor Hunt and many of our members are in training for the pony race which is held after the adult races.

"This is a good day out for members and their families, as well as being an opportunity to show support to Llangeinor Hunt, of which the pony club has had links with for many years," she added. **ME**

Camille Wilson-Jenkins, Katie Davies, Imogen Rees, Shauna Evans, and Bronwyn Wictome, passed their C test, held at Talygarn Equestrian Centre.

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SEVEN HEAVEN FOR RUGBY STARLETS

THE annual Vale of Glamorgan schools' rugby sevens tournament saw Cowbridge Comprehensive School triumph in three out of six age group titles, continuing a season of local rugby dominance for the school.

Held at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg in Barry, the competition featured the cream of the county's young rugby talent in the small sided version of the game, as all of the Vale's secondary schools – other than Bryn Hafren girls' school – took part.

Cowbridge emerged victorious in the year 8, 9 and 11 tournaments, and were runners-up in the three remaining age categories, beaten by Stanwell (year-7 and 10) and Ysgol Bro Morgannwg (seniors).

The Cowbridge boys' sevens success was the latest in a year of remarkable rugby glory for the school, with them also winning the Vale schools' 15-a-side league titles in years 7 up to 10, as well as the 15-a-side cup competitions in years 8, 9 and 10.

LEFT: Rugby sevens tournament hosts Ysgol Bro Morgannwg on the attack against Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

The Vale of Glamorgan's rugby development officer, Matt Silva, commented: "Rugby in the Vale is at an all-time high at this present time with most schools fielding sides at every age group, and it is paramount that we have a league structure and a Cup finals day in 15-a-side and sevens as it gives the pupils a goal to aim for.

"I'd like to say a big thank you to all the secondary school PE teachers who contributed to making this tournament a success and a special thank you to Rhys Beynon at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg for all his hard work and commitment in organising these events."

LEFT: St Richard Gwyn Catholic School looking to break against Barry Comprehensive (green).

Scorpions feel full force of Lions' roar!

South Wales Scorpions	22
Swinton Lions	74

CO-OPERATIVE Championship 1 league leaders Swinton Lions survived an early scare in Neath when they were 18–0 down to South Wales Scorpions after just 11 minutes, but they quickly fought their way back into the game and once they took control, they showed why they are top.

The game was just 30 seconds old when Jamie Murphy broke through to score under the sticks to give Scorpions the lead after Ashley Bateman sprinted down the right wing when he received the ball from kick-off; Lewis Reece converted.

Steve Parry wriggled his way through the defence to score the second on seven minutes after debutant Paul Raftery had been stopped short, and Reece goaled again.

The third was scored on 11 minutes when Casey Bromilow leapt on his own grubber kick after it had rebounded off a Lions player.

The second half was all Swinton as the Welsh hardly had a look-in, but Scorpions didn't give up and got back on the board on 63 minutes.

Reece then grounded but failed to convert.

However, the Lions continued the scoring to conclude an emphatic victory. **IG**

Colin Hillman walk

SOUTH Wales Police RFC and Matthew Hillman will shortly announce the route and date for a charity walk in memory of Colin Hillman 'Rugby's True Gentleman' with proceeds going to Y Bwthyn Newydd at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

The walk with be free to take part in and fancy dress will be optional. Keep a look out for more information in The GEM and at local rugby clubs.

Keith Miles

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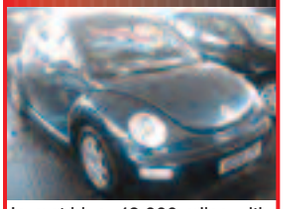

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SWIMMING SUCCESS FOR CLUB'S AMATEUR MEMBERS

SUNDAY, April 10 saw a large contingent of Barry Amateur Swimming Club (ASC) members participate in City Of Cardiff's Closed Invitational swim meet.

Swimmers were from a wide age group, the youngest being eight and the oldest 15.

The swim meet races were split into single year age groups, with up to 40 swimmers participating in each age group.

Medals were awarded for the top three places, so it was a tremendous effort for anyone to win one of these medals or indeed finish inside the top 10.

Barry ASC can be proud of the effort from all their swimmers, the majority of whom managed to beat their personal bests in the majority of their races, which is a great measure of success and progress.

With all the Barry swimmers and parents sitting together throughout the day, there was a togetherness created with everyone cheering on every Barry ASC swimmer, and this had a positive influence on all swimmers.

There were numerous positives for the Barry ASC swimmers with Luke Birnage gaining first, second and third place; Jonathan Bowden finished in the top 10 in each event and set personal bests throughout; Shaun Bowden won every race – six first places, while Ryan Connor achieved two first places and a second.

Barry swimmers Declan Ewington, Ffion McCulloch and Luke Birnage.

Declan Ewington won two second place medals after moving up an age group, while Ffion Goodland finished in or around the top 10 in each event to continue her recent progress.

Llinos Goodland achieved personal bests in each event and finished in the top half of her age group; Jonathan Haggett finished inside the top 10 in each event and nearly broke the 30-second barrier for the 50m Free; Amy McAndrew gained personal bests and finished in or around 10th place in the large 11-year age group, while Elizabeth McCulloch swam in seven events with a best of fifth place and still was still able to set personal bests.

Ffion McCulloch, one of our youngest swimmers, entering just her second meet outside Barry, gained two firsts; Jack Parry finished in or around the top 10 in each event; Isabelle Peter set personal bests in several events and finished inside the top 10 on several occasions in her age group of up to 40 entrants.

Ffion Vickers set personal bests and finished in the top 10 on several occasions in the same age group; Bethan Williams finished in the top 10 in four of her five events and beat her 200 IM personal best by some 13 seconds, while Briana Williams in just her second meet, set personal bests in each event.

In all, Barry ASC gained 11 first places, three seconds and two thirds.

Barry Amateur Swimming Club is always looking for new members to join the club so if you would like a trial, please phone Mrs Heulwen Cooper on 01446 733784.

We swim at Barry Leisure Centre and Cardiff International Pool. For more information, look on the Barry Amateur Swimming Club website.

RW

WELSH GOLF NEWS

Vale golfer Rhys is well placed in order of merit

VALE golfer Rhys Pugh is in third place in the Pinnacle Golf Union of Wales Order of Merit, trailing leader James Frazer by 94 points.

Oliver Farr is in second place, and he hit back emphatically after the Duncan Putter event with a clean sweep of trophies at the Trubshaw Cup.

He scored rounds of 69 and 66 to win the Carmarthenshire Open at Ashburnham, and rounds of 69 and 66 at Tenby to win the Tenby Golden Eagle.

His total of 14 under par saw him lift the Trubshaw Cup for the second year running and he collected 150 Pinnacle Order of Merit points.

Rhys Pugh (Vale of Glamorgan) and Michael Hearne (Southerndown) tied for second place and collected 75 Pinnacle points each.

Pugh scored rounds of 71, 72, 68 and 70, while Hearne scored 68, 70, 71 and 72 for a four-round total of 281 strokes.

The next Pinnacle Order of Merit event is the Lytham Trophy at Royal Lytham & St Annes from April 29 – May 1.

Order of Merit positions: 1 James Frazer (Pennard) 188; 2 Oliver Farr (Ludlow) 150; 3 Rhys Pugh (Vale of Glamorgan) 94.33; 4 Ben Westgate (Trevose) 93 5 Michael Hearne (Southerndown); 75 6 Joe Vickery (Newport); 71 7= Mark Lewis (Glamorganshire) 23.33.

JUNIOR ORDER OF MERIT

RHYS PUGH has a big lead in the Welsh junior order of merit table, sponsored by Hugh James, after his strong early season showing in senior events.

However, it was Jack Bush of Morlais Castle who claimed the Central Wales Boys at Aberdovey and Borth & Ynyslas, with rounds of 69 and 72.

Bush claimed 100 Hugh James points. In second place were Oliver Dickson (Pennard) and James Casey (Newport) who each collected 50 points.

At the Peter McEvoy Trophy, Rhys Pugh scored rounds of 71, 71, 69 and 68 to finish third in his defence of the trophy and collected 120 Hugh James points.

The next event is the South Wales Boys Championship at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club, April 26–28.

Order of merit positions: 1 Rhys Pugh (Vale of Glamorgan) 320; 2 Jack Bush (Morlais Castle) 140; 3 Zach Galliford (Borth & Ynyslas) 60; 4 Oliver Baker (Cardiff) 52; 12= Delon Hau (Vale of Glamorgan) 18; 14= Sam McCarthy (Vale of Glamorgan) 13.5

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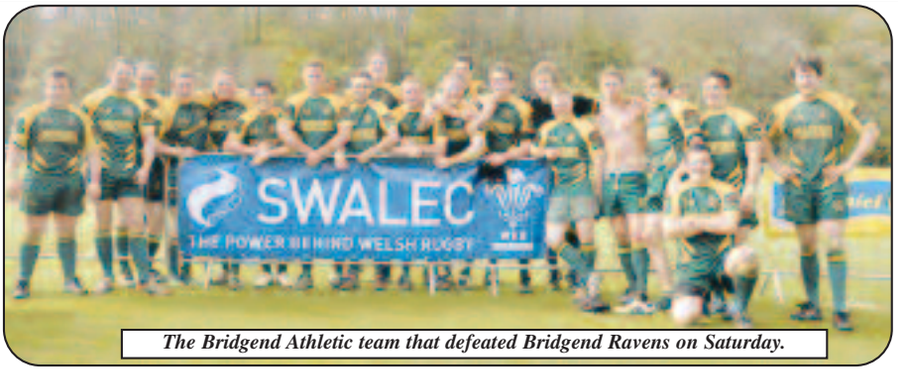

The Bridgend Athletic team that defeated Bridgend Ravens on Saturday.

Athletic dent Ravens' undefeated streak in hard-fought encounter

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC RFC 32
BRIDGEND RAVENS RFC 30

A BEAUTIFUL spring day, with conditions perfect for a game of rugby football provided the setting for the second meeting of the season from these two cross-town rivals.

The Ravens had already sealed the Division One West title and are looking towards play-offs to regain their Premier status.

Nevertheless, the Athletic were intent on putting a dent in the celebrations by attempting to inflict the Ravens' first league defeat of the season and they approached the game with no lack of confidence.

The Athletic have lost only twice since October; away at second-placed Bonymaen two weeks ago and to Pontypridd in the SWALEC Cup in January.

From the get-go Steve Lewis' high kick out was not claimed by the Ravens and hooker Simon Mustoe drove forward.

The ball was spun to centre Rob Coles, whose half-break was impeded illegally and Lewis opened the scoring with a short range penalty kick.

Back came the Ravens with some pressure of their own and they, in turn, forced a penalty for fly-half Dan Griffiths to level the scores.

Straight from the kick-off prop Owen Cotton drove in and the ball was recycled quickly.

Centre Nathan Edwards made a break and found full back Ross Jones on his shoulder.

The Limerick product was about to be tackled but slipped a pass to former Athletic youth player Luke Morgan, who raced in from 50 metres; Griffiths converted.

During this passage of play Coles had been receiving treatment for a head injury and had to leave the game, and was replaced by young Rhys Jones.

Jones stepped in at full-back, with James Olds moving to centre and Lindsay MacCausland to wing.

It would be true to say that the home team had the better of the remainder of the half.

Good Athletic pressure forced the Ravens to concede defensive penalties and Lewis sent two kicks over to reduce the deficit to one point.

When the Ravens attempted to break out of defence, centre John Leyshon knocked-on and MacCausland pounced on the loose ball. He was tap-tackled but passed on to Olds, who made 20 metres into the heart of Ravens territory where another Athletic youth product, scrum-half Tom Habberfield, tested the referee's patience once too often and was shown the way to the sin-bin.

Athletic players and supporters are jubilant as Rhys Jones crashes over for the winning try.

Again Lewis slotted over the kick.

The Athletic continued to dominate and following another yellow card to Ravens prop Owain Williams for interfering on the ground, a good scrum in midfield allowed Tom Penry-Ellis to slip the ball to Tom Davies and the scrum-half made good ground.

Once more the Ravens offended in the tackle and Lewis extended the home lead.

Things looked even better moments later when a long pass to the right reached MacCausland, who made ground before turning the ball inside to Stuart Morris.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 30)

Kenfig Hill earn emphatic win over Cwmavon

Jamie John attacking.

Pictures by PETER GILLING

THIS was another dazzling display of rugby by a rampant Mules side in which they defeated Cwmavon by 116-11.

It would be unfair to single out any player for special praise as this was a magnificent team effort. The half-time score was Kenfig Hill 54 Cwmavon 6.

The Kenfig Hill try scorers were: Kyle Evans (six); Shaun Burnell (two); Owen Davies (two); Chris Tossell (two); Nicky Morgan; Jamie John; Steve Gillard; Scott Waller; Mark Jenkins; Rhodri Clark (one try, 11 cons); Nicky Giles (two conversions).

ABOVE: Steve Gillard on the way to his try.

Jon Thomas in action.

KENFIG HILL/CORNELLY YOUTH 22
MORRISTON 12

Another good win for the youth against a good Morriston side. It was a good all round team performance with Lloyd Bradley giving a man of the match performance and Morgan Griffiths having a good game.

For Kenfig Hill, Tom Lodwig, Dale Hickey and Connor O'Connell scored tries, while Lloyd Bradley put over two conversions and two penalties.

GO'S

BRIDGEND ATHLETES RUN MINI LONDON MARATHON

FIVE Bridgend athletes were selected to represent Wales in the Virgin Mini London Marathon on Sunday.

There were six age groups running in the race – under-17 boys, under-17 girls, under-15 boys, under-15 girls, under-13 boys and under-13 girls.

The three-mile race started at Old Billingsgate and followed a course through the London streets, passing through Westminster up to Birdcage Walk, past Buckingham Palace and on to the finish near the end of The Mall.

Ffion Lewis, who has been selected to run the Mini Marathon numerous times, ran in the under-17 girls race and as usual gave a superb performance, finishing in 37th place in a time of 18 mins 28 secs.

Under-15 boy James Hunt was the third Welsh boy to finish in his age group in a time of 16 mins 19 secs and in 40th position. The second Bridgend under-15 boy to run in the race was Lewis Jones, who ran a sterling race, finishing in 54th position in a time of 16 mins 40 secs.

Bridgend was represented by two under-13 girls, Seren Allin and Rosa Yates. Both girls ran strongly through the crowds of runners, Seren finishing 24th in a time of 18 mins 51 secs and Rosa completing the race in 29th place with a time of 18 mins 56 secs.

Well done and congratulations to all these Welsh athletes for their outstanding performances in this very prestigious race.

JR

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Weekends and bank holidays: Prices retained
Tel: 01656 647926
We're easy to find - off A48, opposite Bridgend Ford